



WARRIORS

Redtail's Choice

ALRIGHT, MORNING
PATROLS EVERYONE!

TIGERCLAW

LIONHEART

GRAB TWO
WARRIORS AND AN
APPRENTICE EACH.

TIGERCLAW, TAKE
SHADOWCLAN.

BE CAREFUL.

LIONHEART,
CHECK RIVERCLAN.

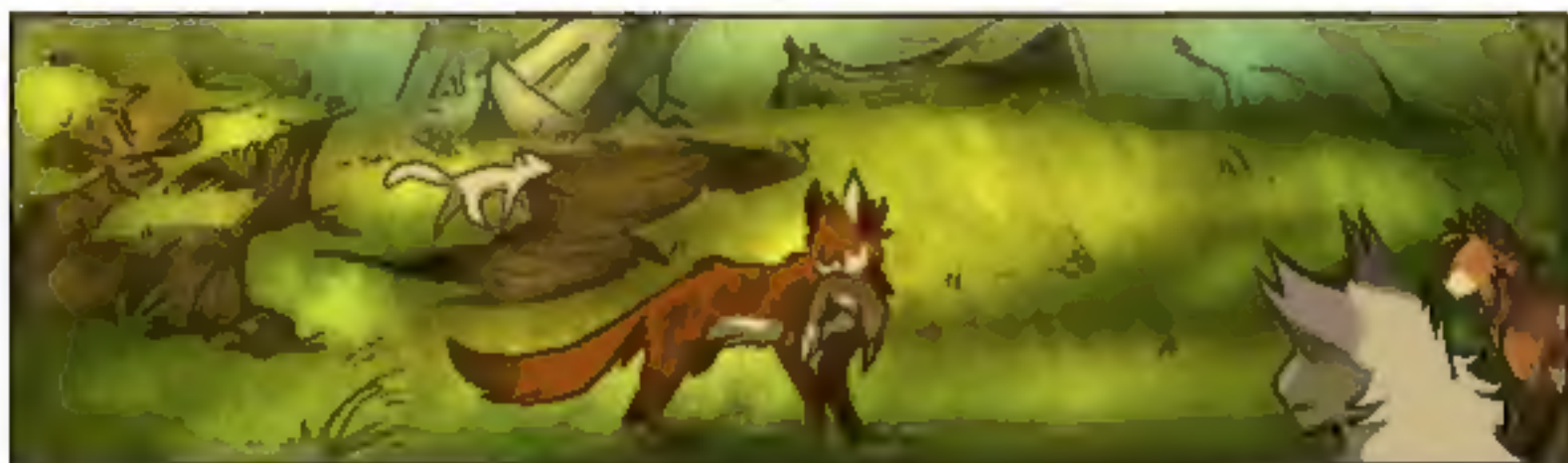
THEY'VE BEEN
PUSHING OUR BORDERS
WORSE AND WORSE
AS OF LATE.

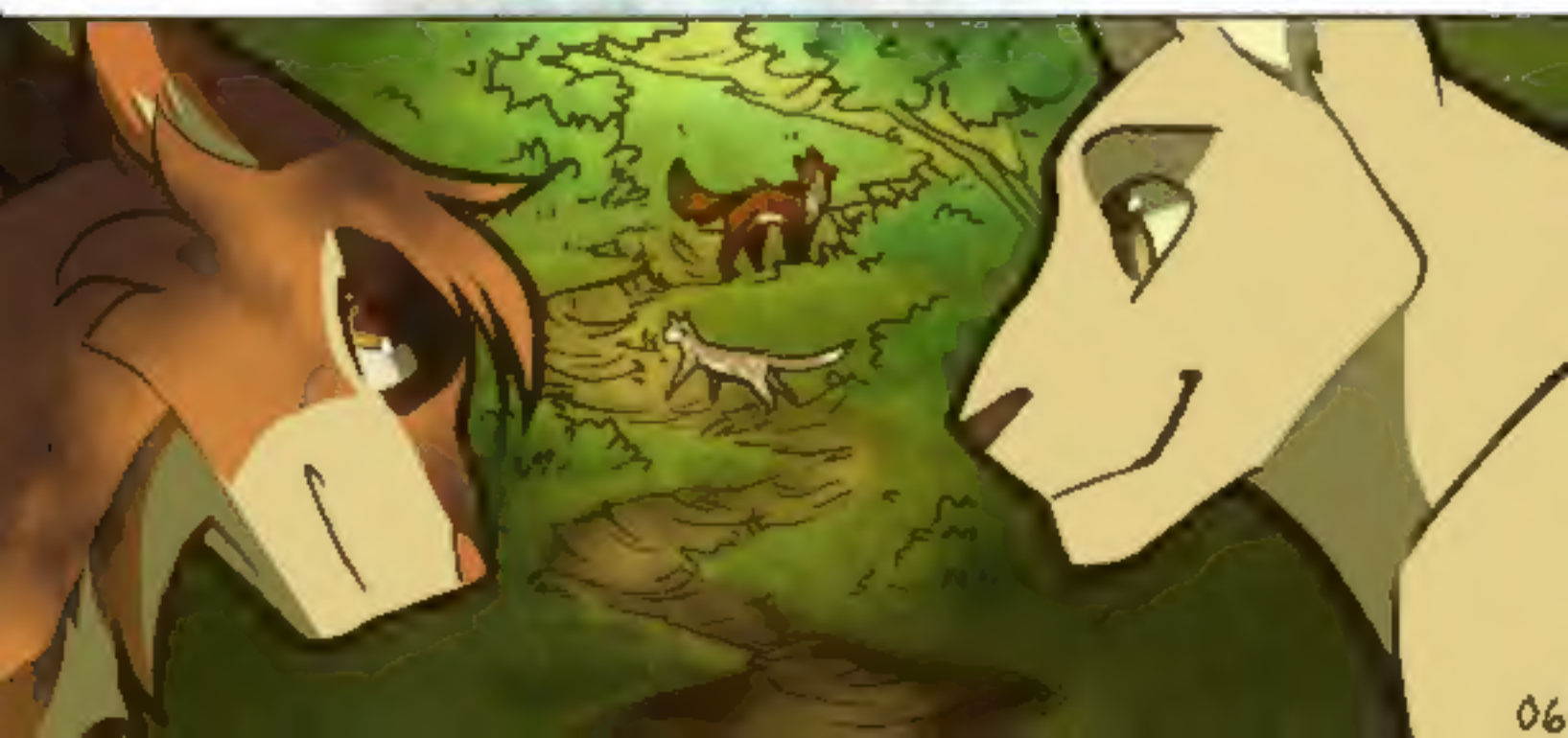
WHITESTORM,
COULD YOU PLEASE COME
HUNTING WITH ME?

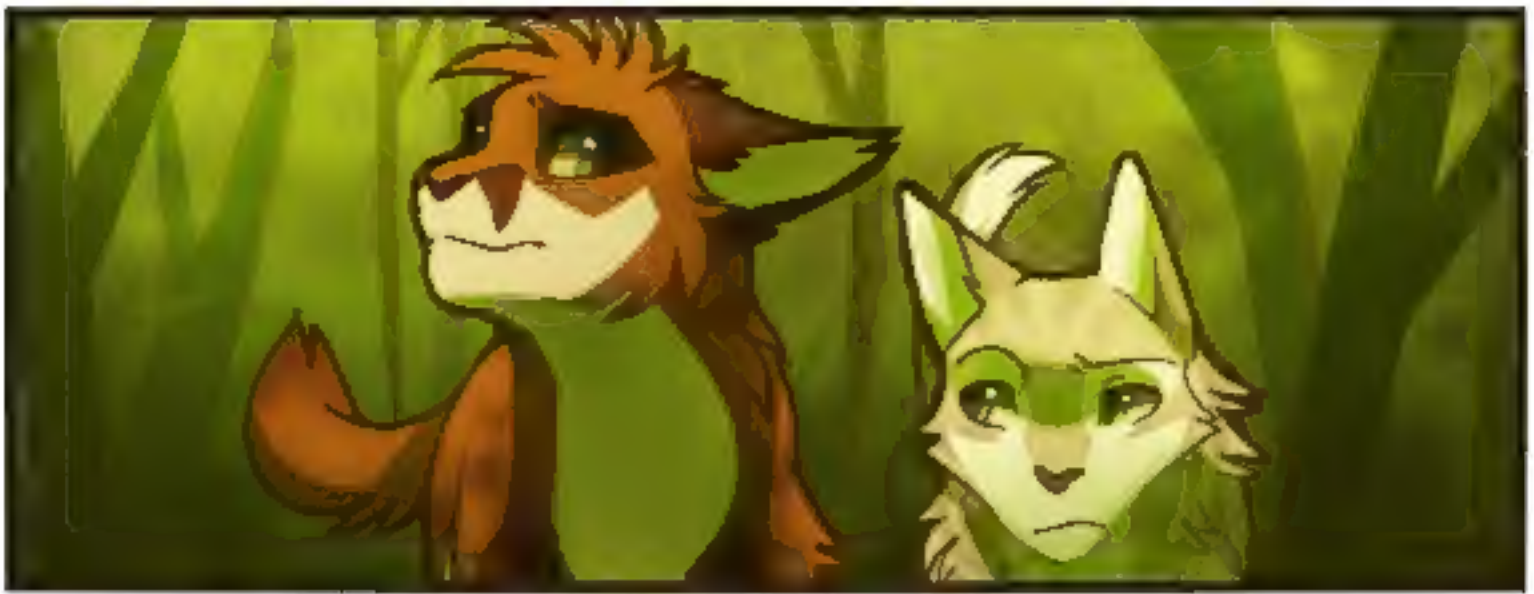
OF COURSE!

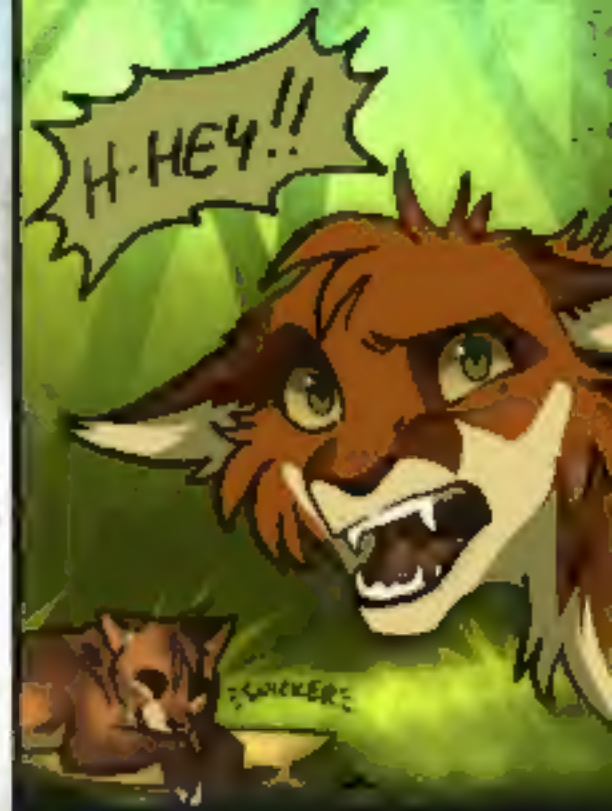
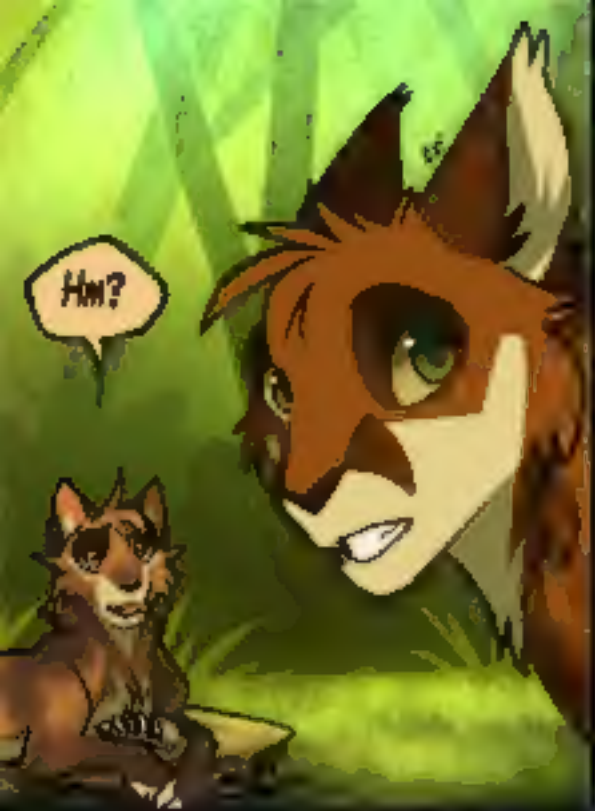

















I'M LEARNING ALL KINDS OF STUFF! WHITESTORM'S ALREADY SHOWN ME HOW TO HUNT AND FIGHT!

I'LL BE THE BEST WARRIOR EVER!

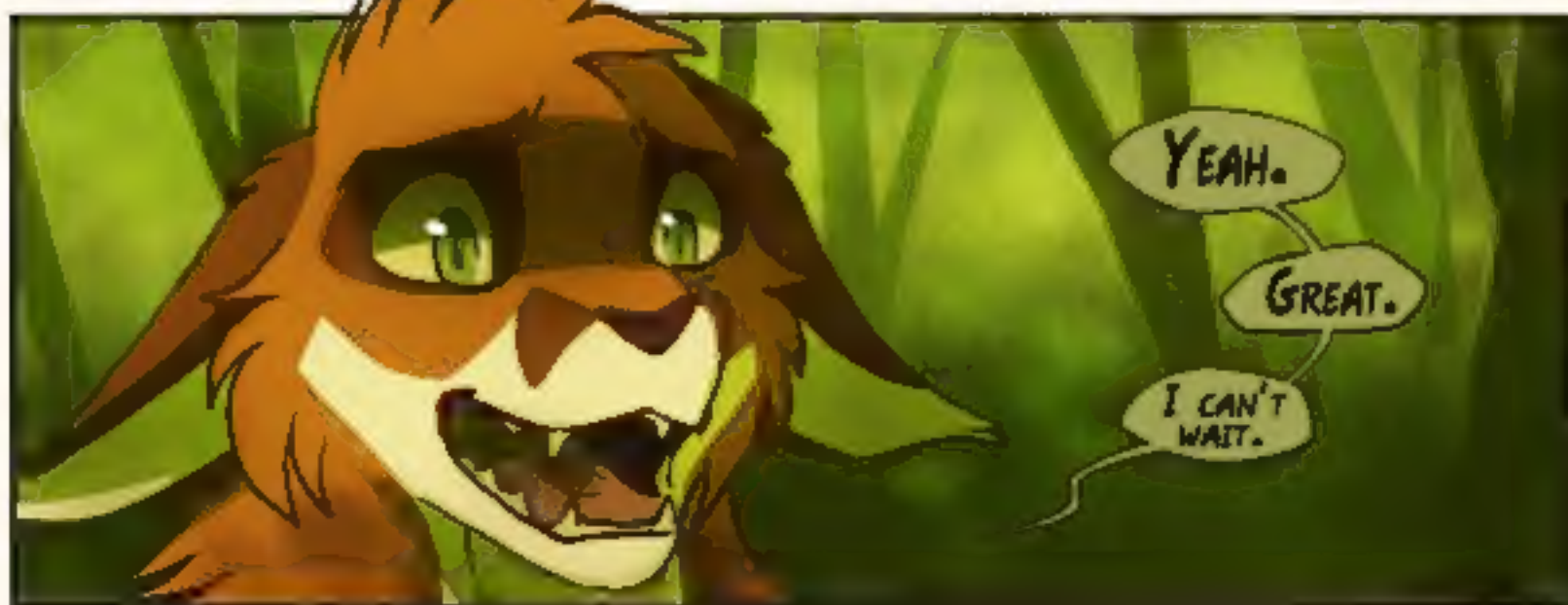
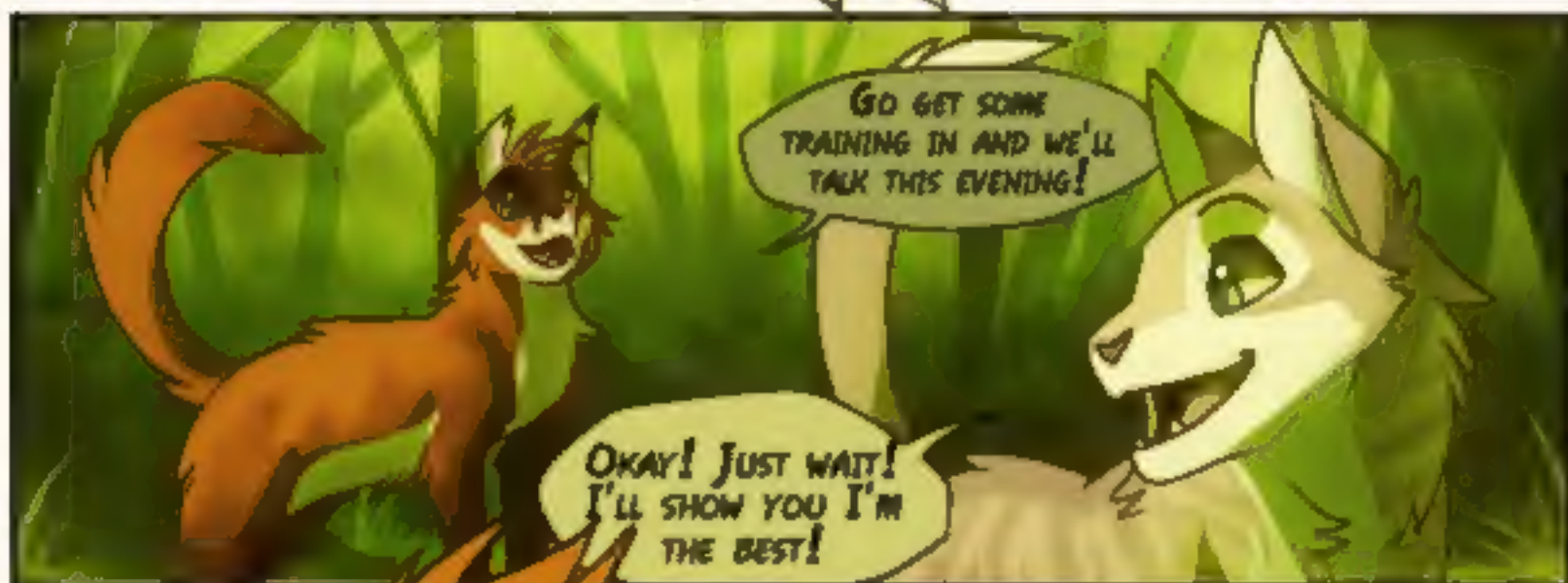


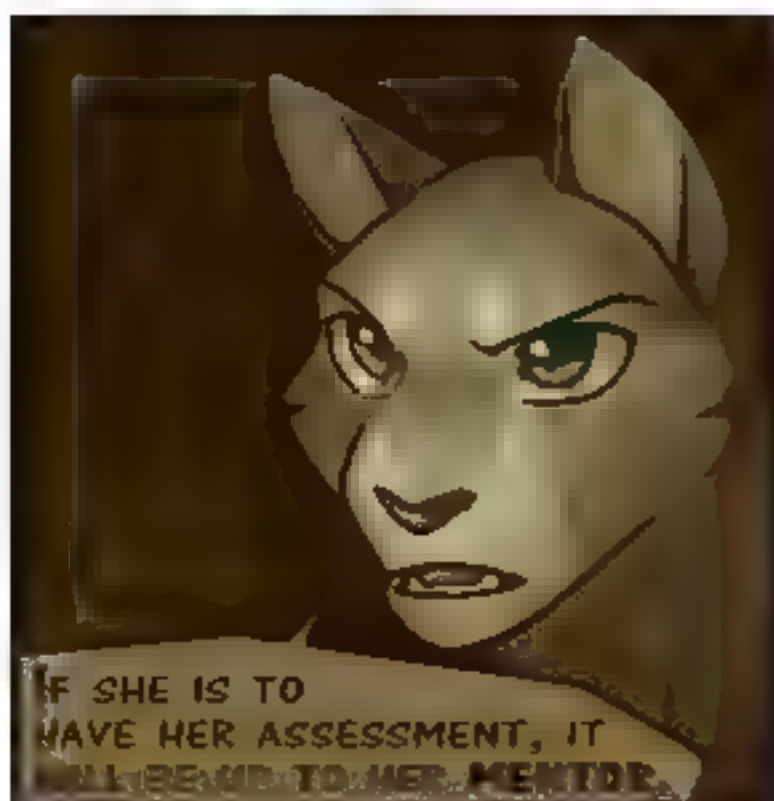
HA, THAT'S GREAT....!

YEAH!!

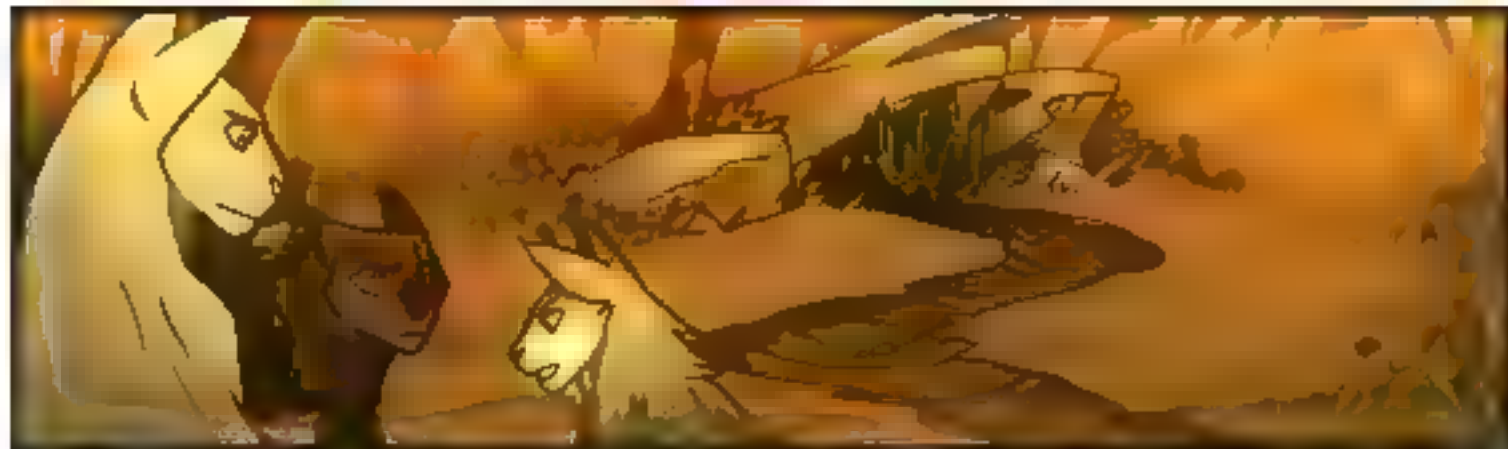



SO YOU THINK I'M READY FOR MY ASSESSMENT?












CATS OF THUNDERCLAN,

TIGERCLAW HAS INFORMED
ME THAT SHADOWCLAN HAS PUT
MARKERS INSIDE OUR TERRITORY.

IF THEY THINK THEY
CAN TAKE OUR LAND WITH
NO COMPLAINT THEY ARE
SORELY MISTAKEN.



TIGERCLAW, YOU
AND YOUR PATROL WILL STAY
AND GUARD THE CAMP.

REDTAIL WILL
LEAD A BATTLE TEAM TO
TEACH OUR DEAR NEIGHBORS
A MUCH NEEDED LESSON.





WHITESTORM


DO YOU THINK YOUR
APPRENTICE IS READY FOR
A BORDER SKIRMISH?



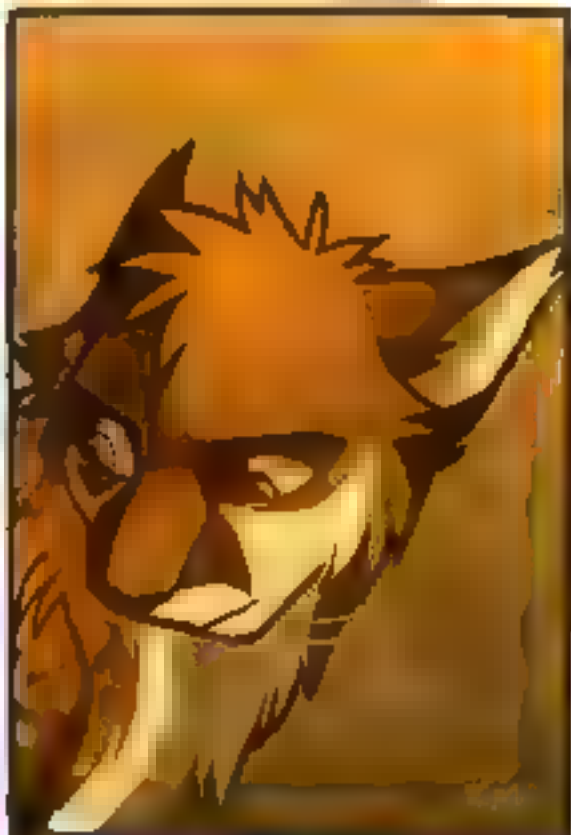
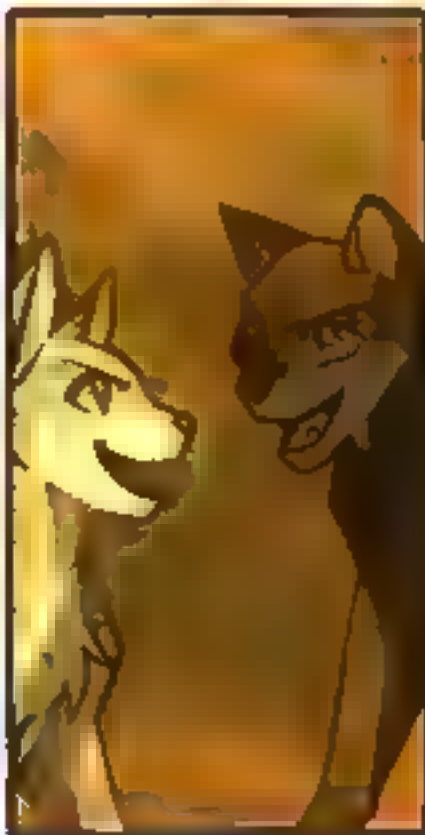
ABSOLUTELY.




MOUSEFUR,
LONGTAIL.



YOU WILL JOIN THEM.
WHITESTORM, YOU WILL COME ALONG
TO ASSESS SANDPAW'S SKILLS.





REDTAIL...

SANDPAW
WILL BE FINE.

SHE CAN'T BE A
WARRIOR IF SHE DOESN'T
FIGHT FOR HER CLAN.

I KNOW,
I KNOW...

I JUST DON'T--

REDTAIL!



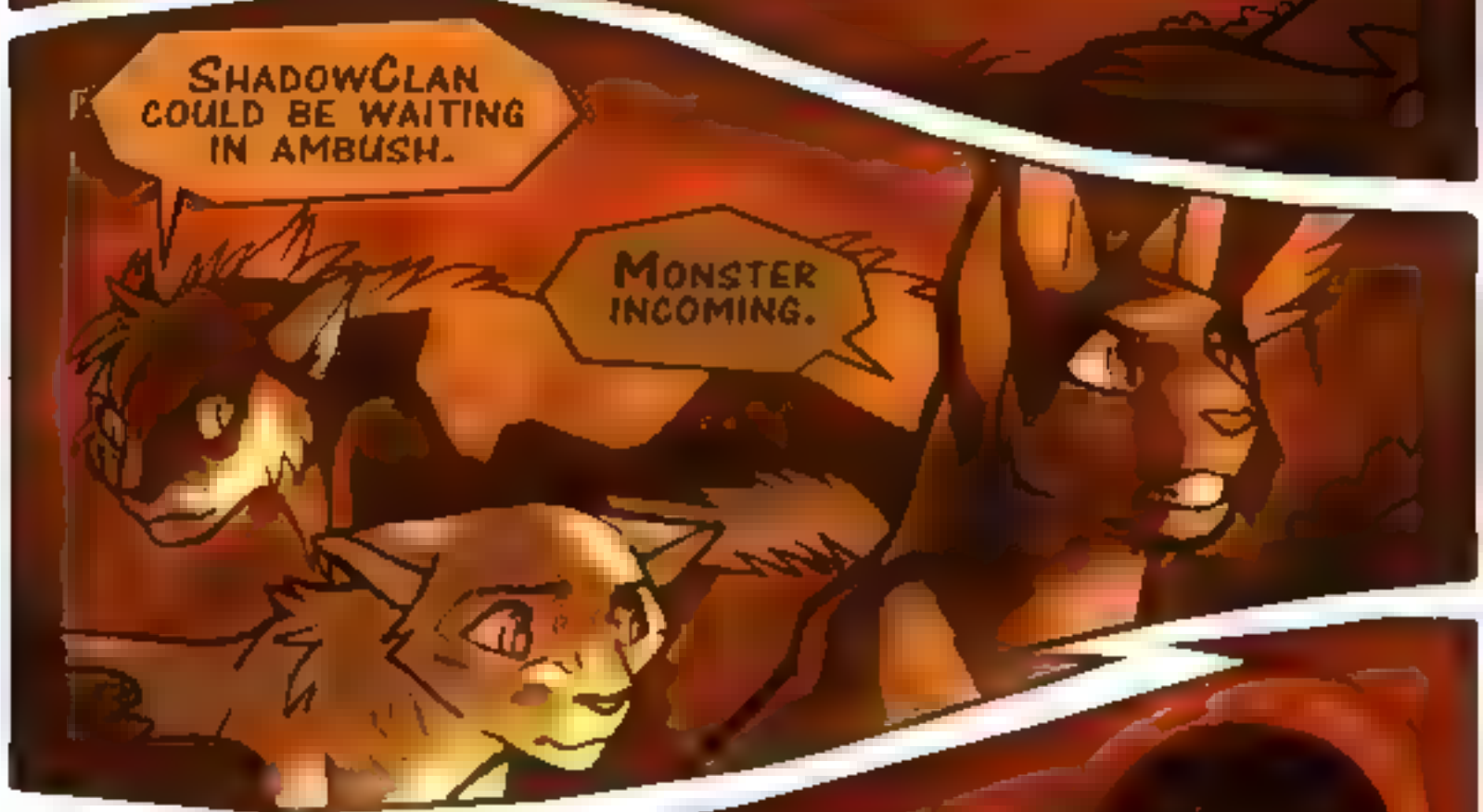
WE'RE AT
THE BORDER.



Ugh!

I HATE THE
THUNDERPATH. HOW
DO TWOLEGS DEAL WITH
THAT STENCH?

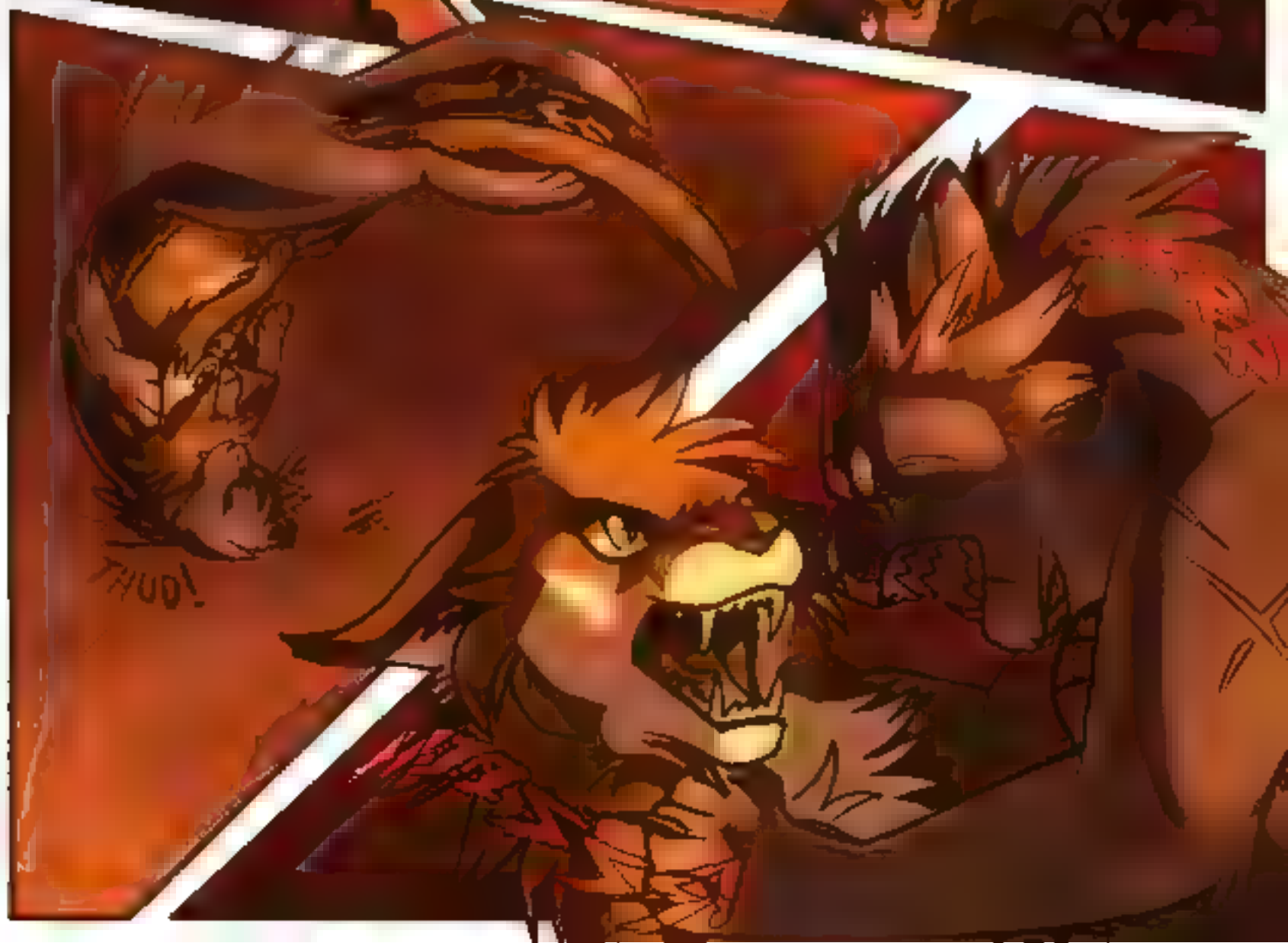
QUIET.



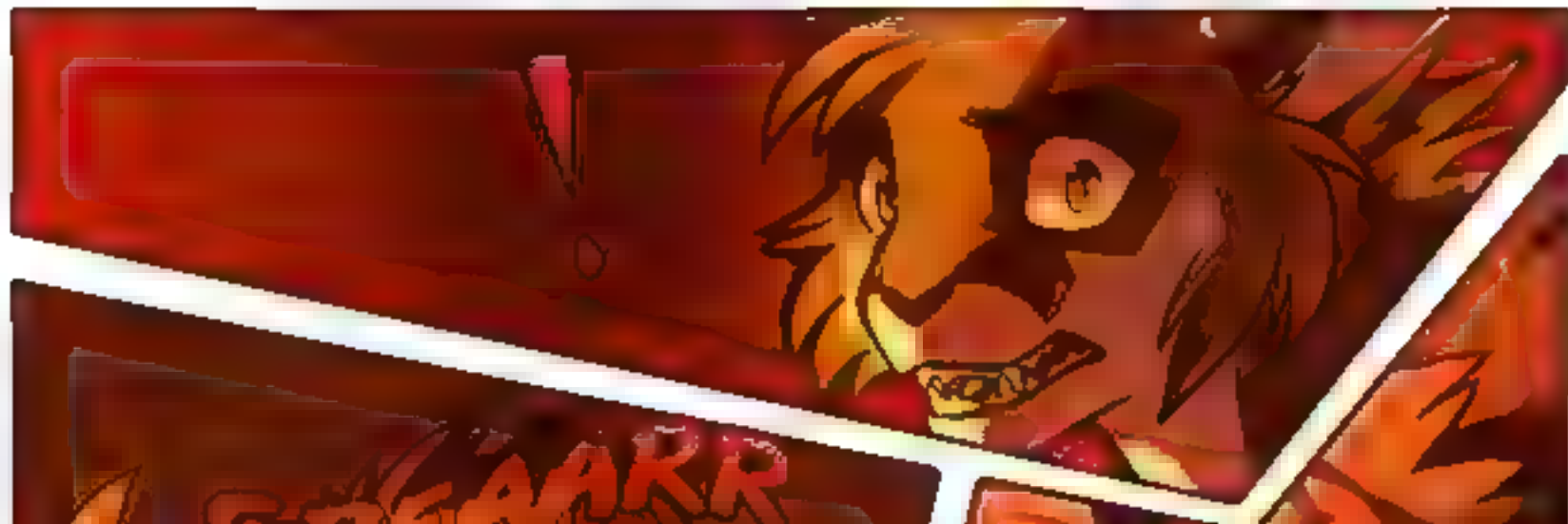
SHADOWCLAN
COULD BE WAITING
IN AMBUSH.

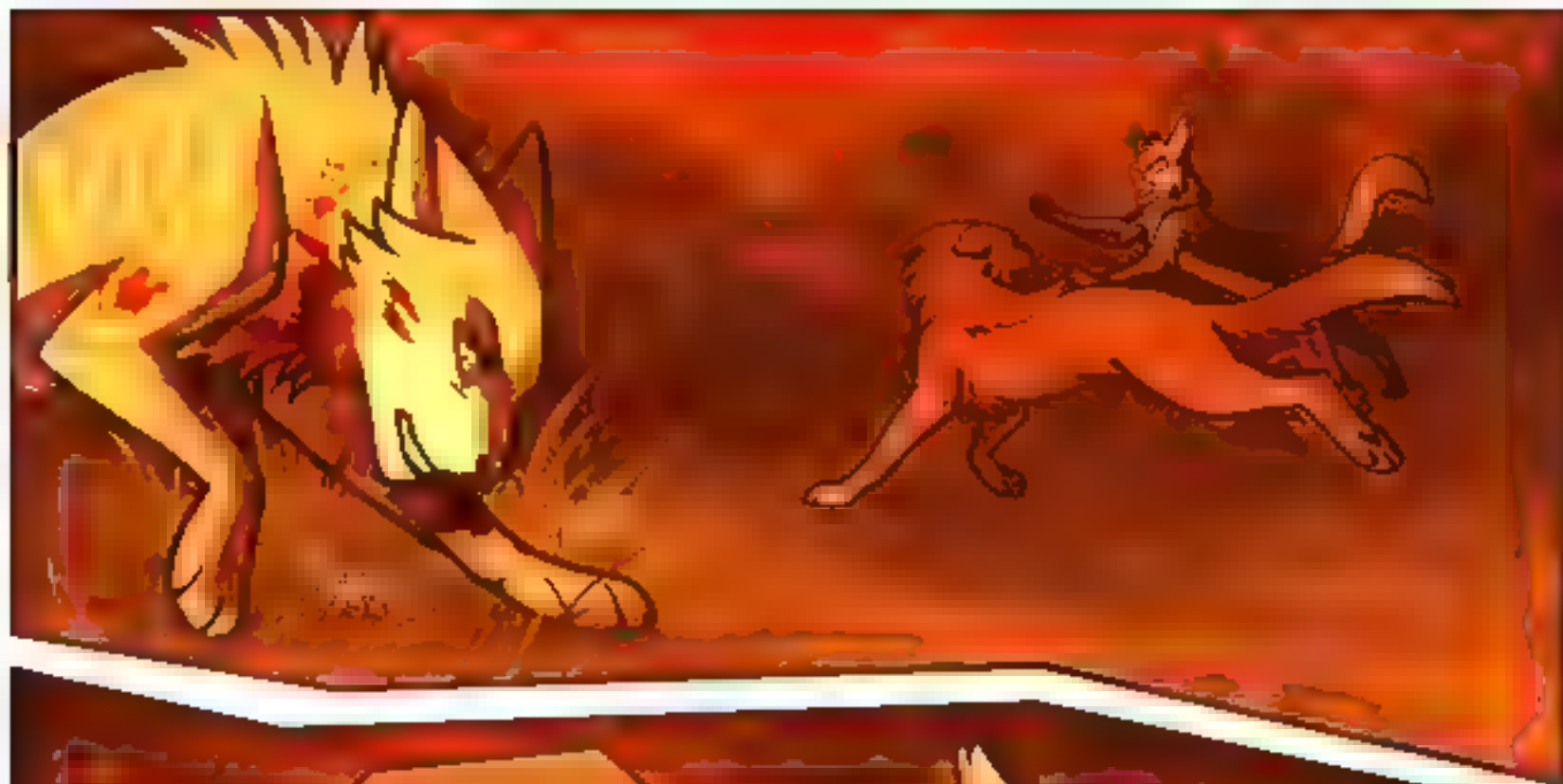
MONSTER
INCOMING.











ARE YOU--

I DON'T NEED
YOUR HELP!

JUST STAY AWAY
FROM ME!

I WAS ONLY...

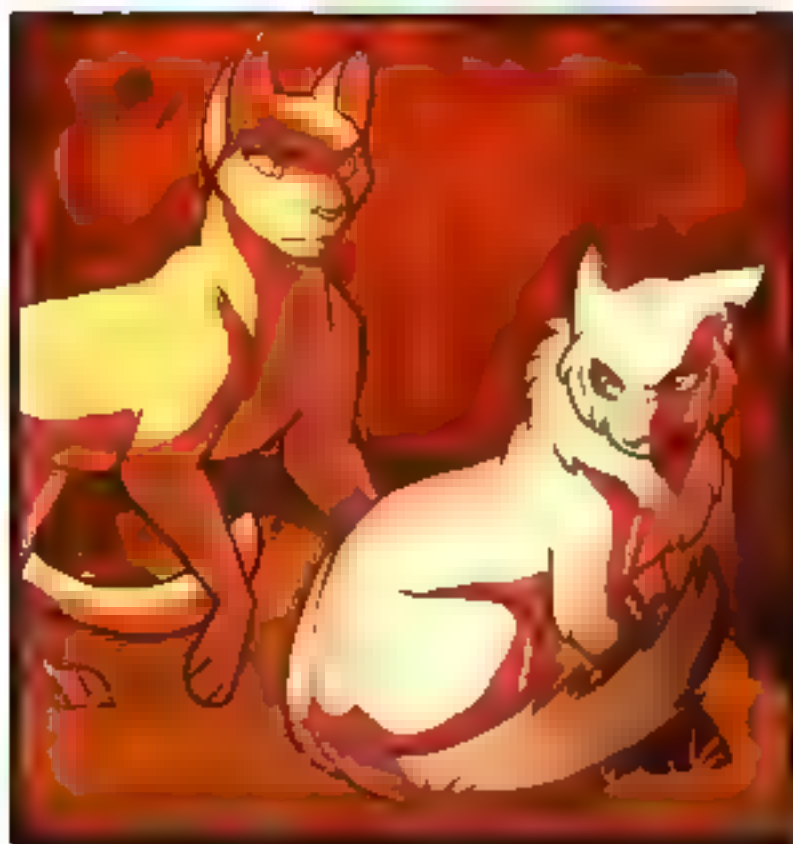
REDTAIL.

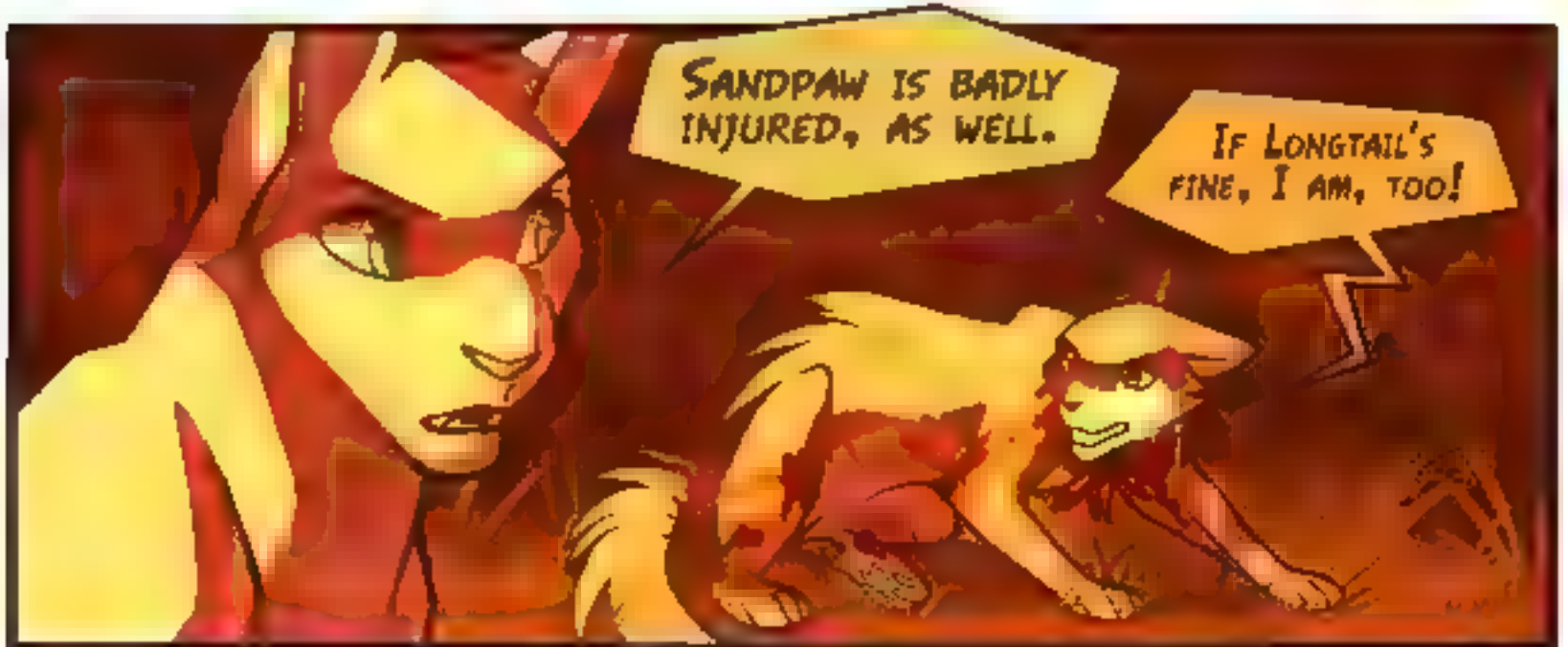
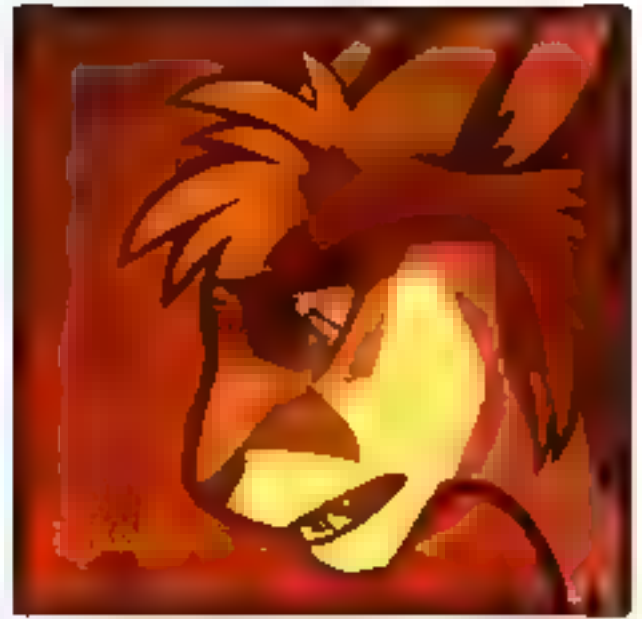
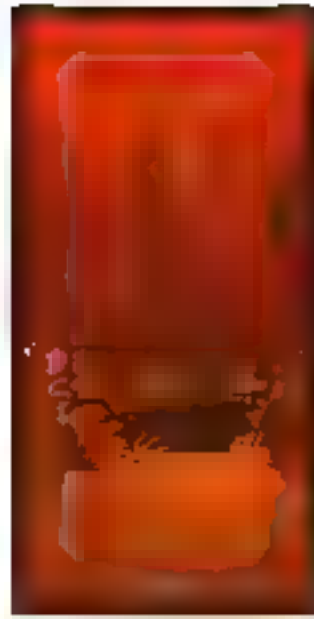
BLACKFOOT.

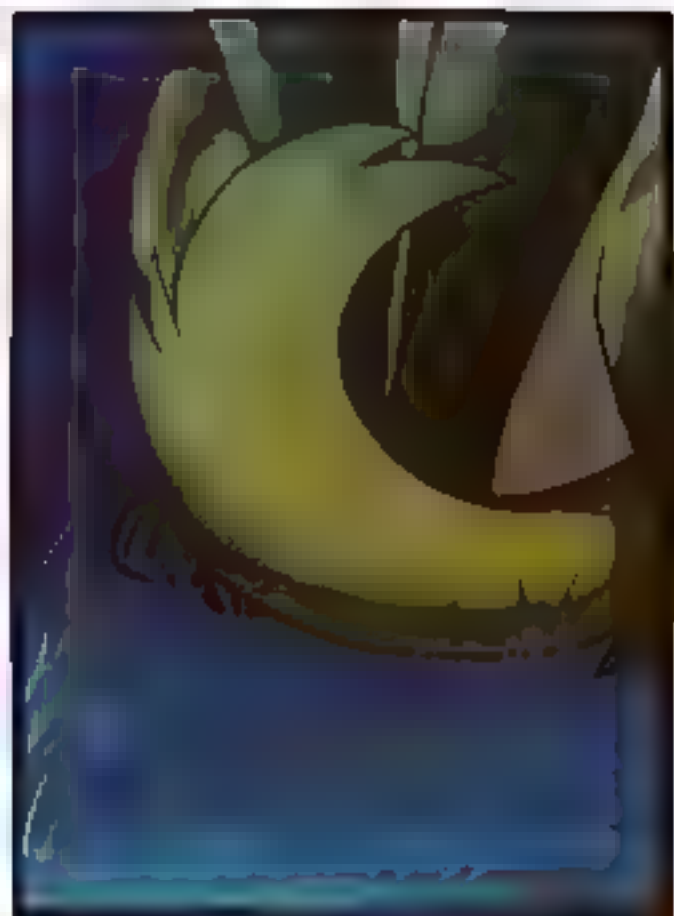
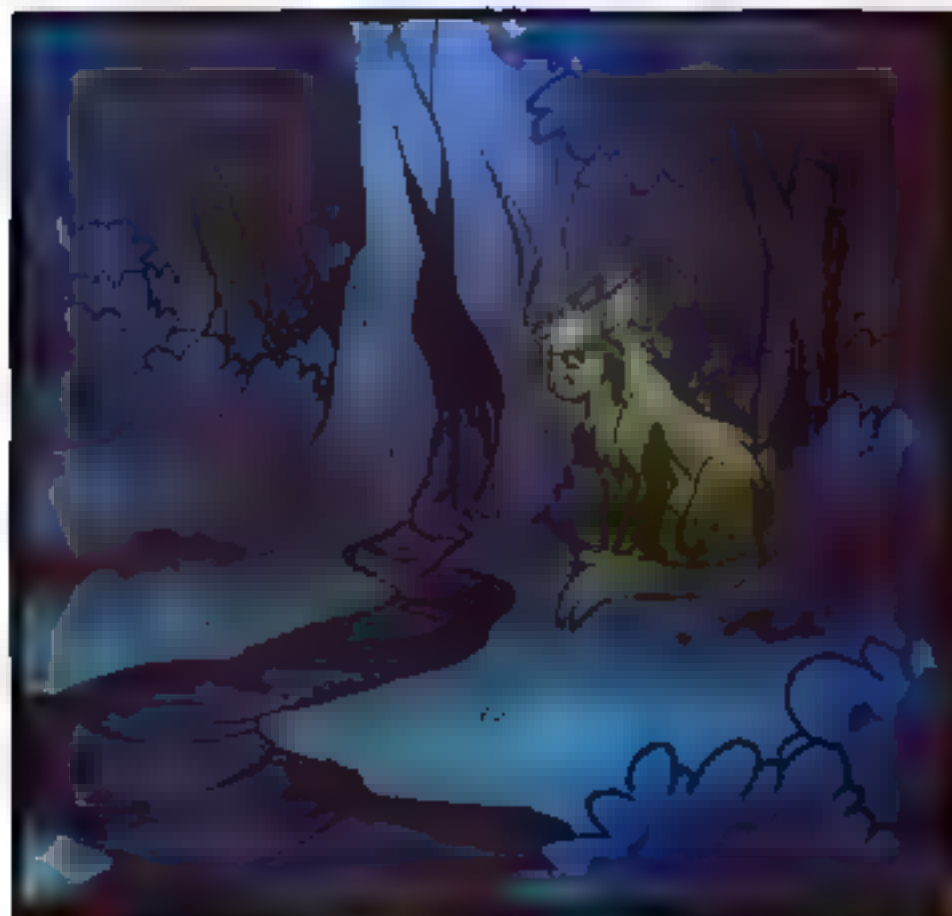
**YOU SHOULD KNOW
NOT TO PICK A FIGHT
YOU CANNOT WIN.**

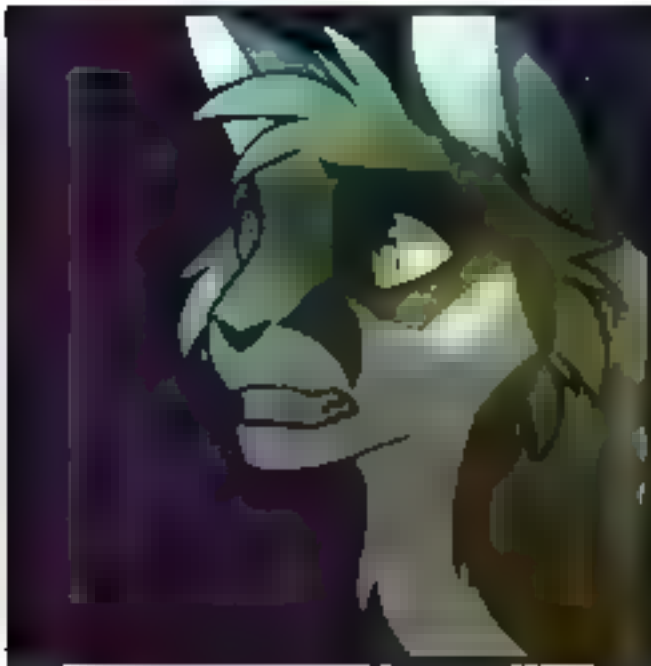
**YOU'RE AWFUL
SHORT-SIGHTED.**

**I WAS JUST SENT TO
DELIVER A MESSAGE FOR
OUR DEAR NEIGHBORS.**







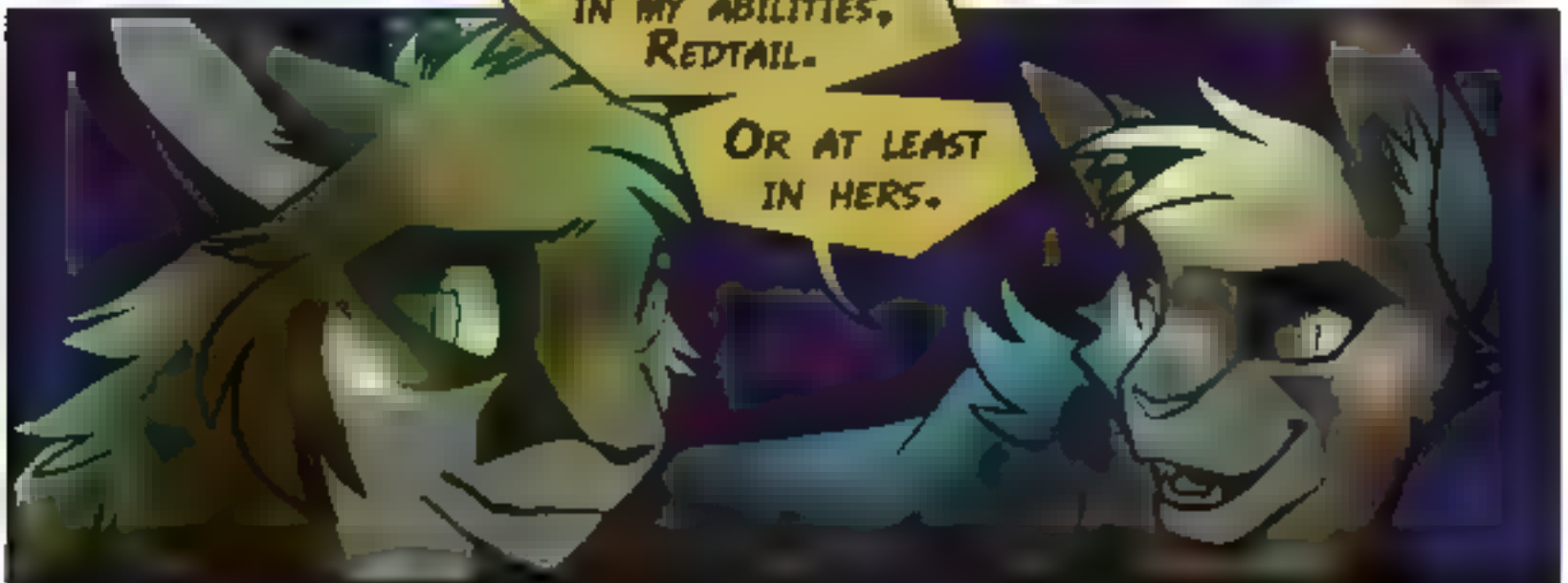


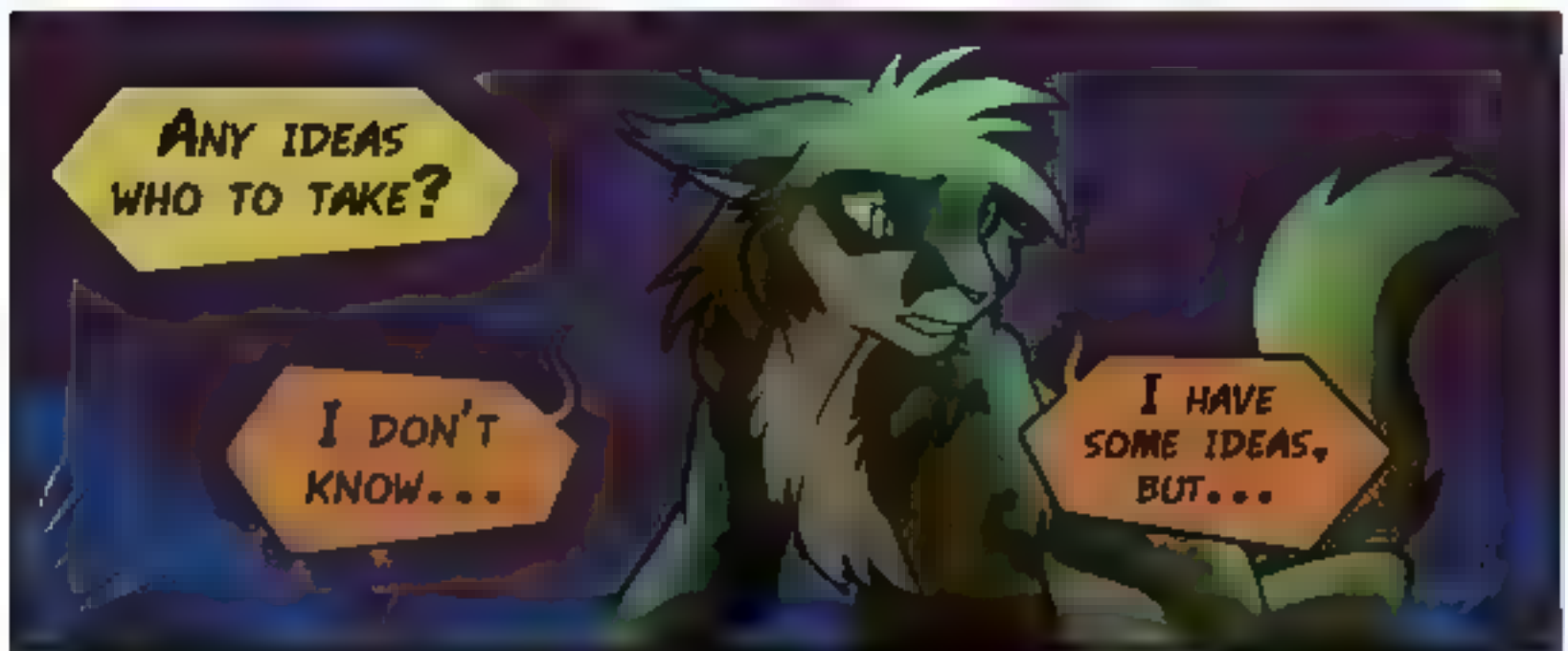
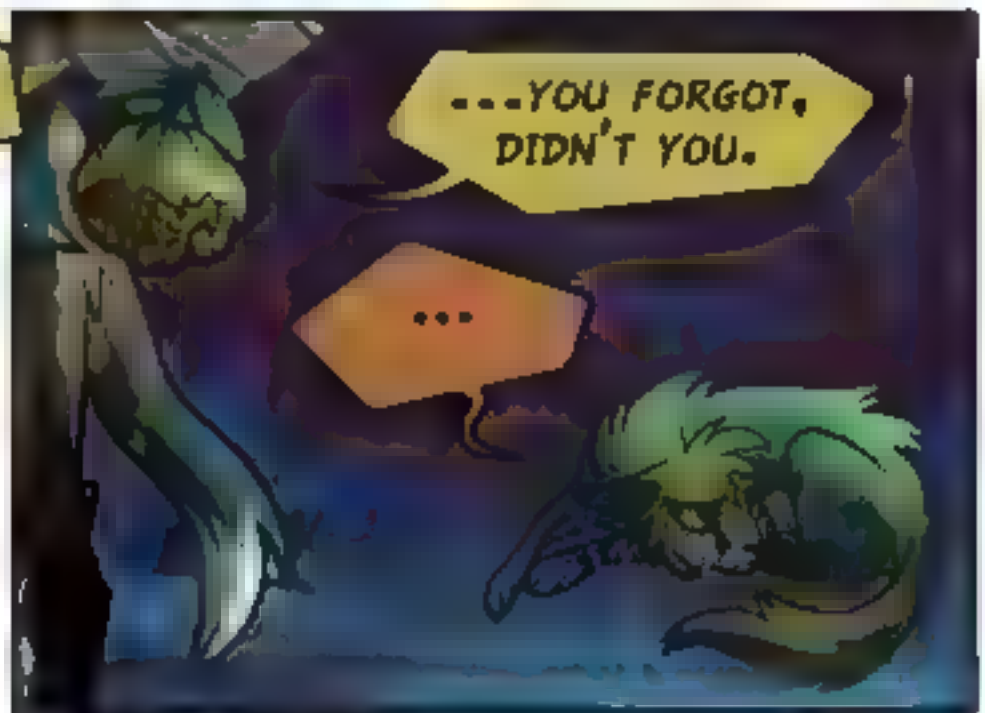
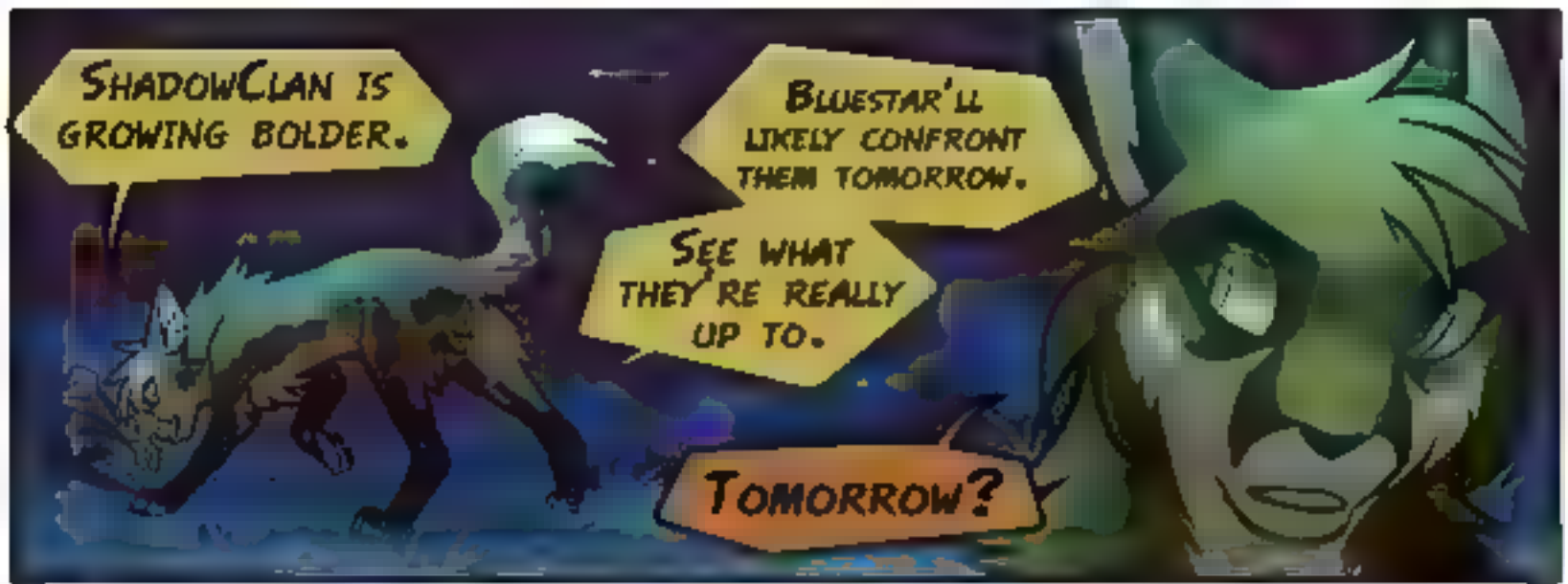
IS SANDPAW
ALRIGHT?

OF COURSE.
SHE'S YOUNG, SHE'LL
HEAL QUICKLY.

HAVE SOME FAITH
IN MY ABILITIES,
REDTAIL.

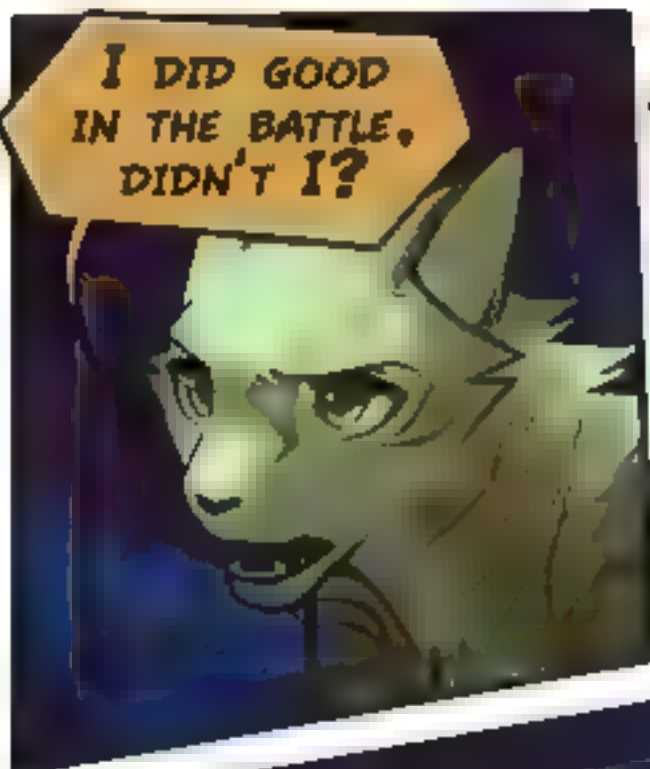
OR AT LEAST
IN HERS.







I CAN COME, RIGHT?



I DID GOOD
IN THE BATTLE,
DIDN'T I?



SANDPAW, I HAVE
THE MARGOLD FOR--

No.




WHAT?!

WHY NOT?


BECAUSE YOU HAVE
YET TO LEARN RESPECT,
EVEN FOR THOSE OF
YOUR OWN CLAN.

HOW CAN I TRUST
YOU TO BEHAVE AROUND
OTHER CLANS?



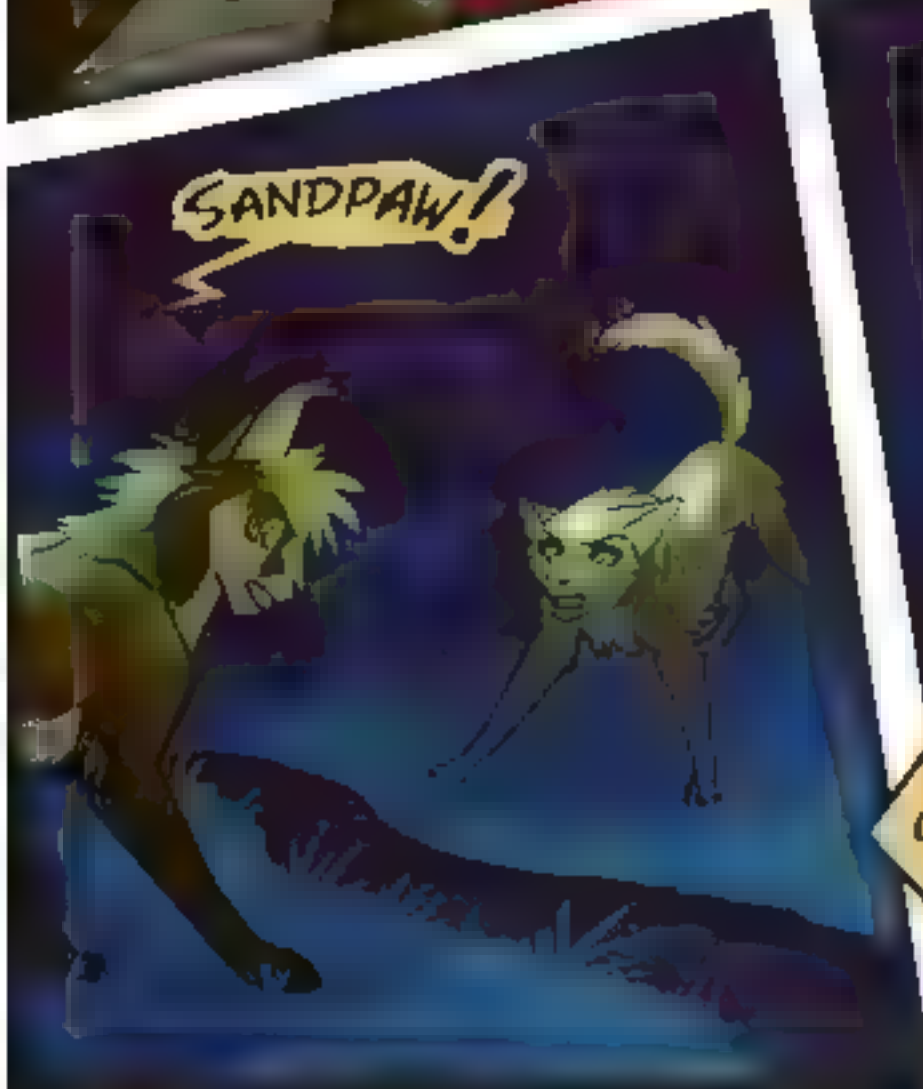
WHAT IS WRONG
WITH YOU?!

WHY ISN'T ANYTHING
I DO EVER ENOUGH FOR YOU?
WHAT ELSE CAN I DO?




IT DOESN'T HAVE ANYTHING
TO DO WITH WHAT I THINK,
SANDPAW.

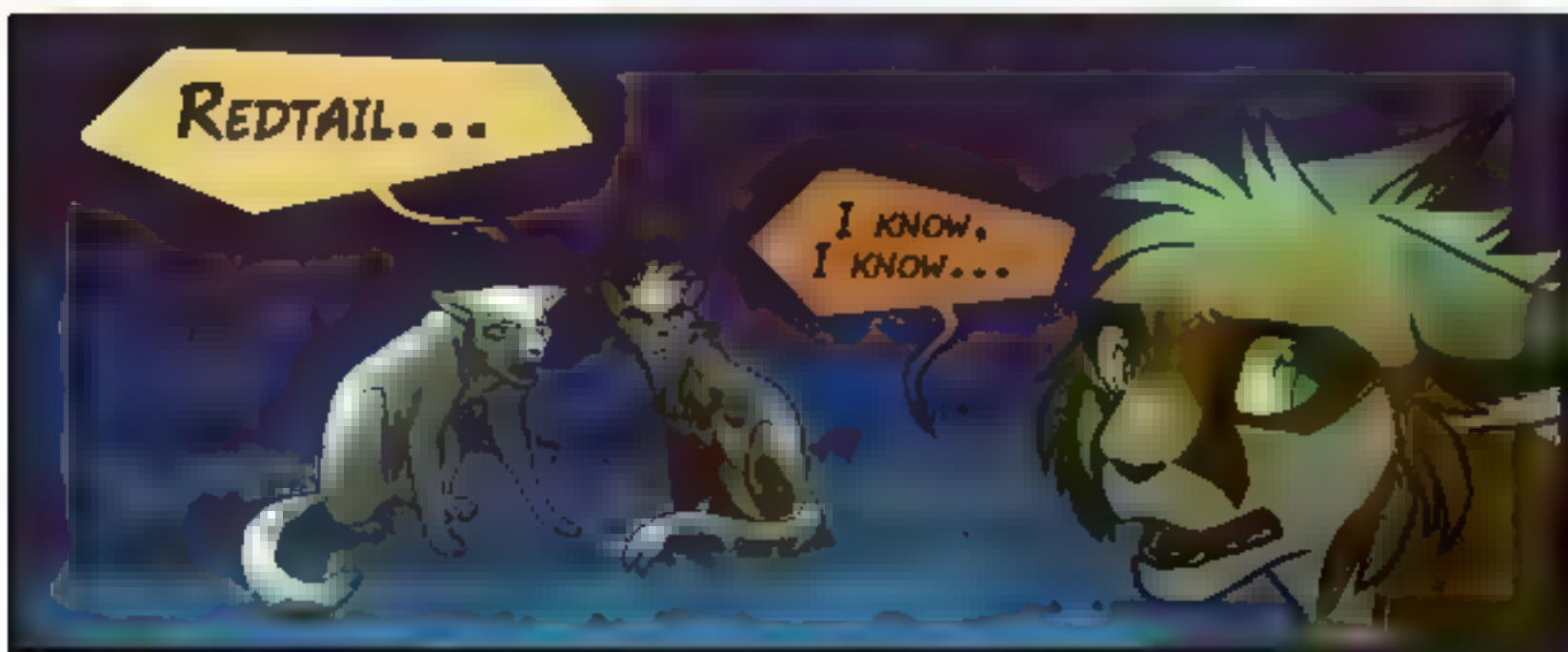
I HAVE TO THINK
OF WHAT IS BEST FOR
THE CLAN!




SANDPAW!



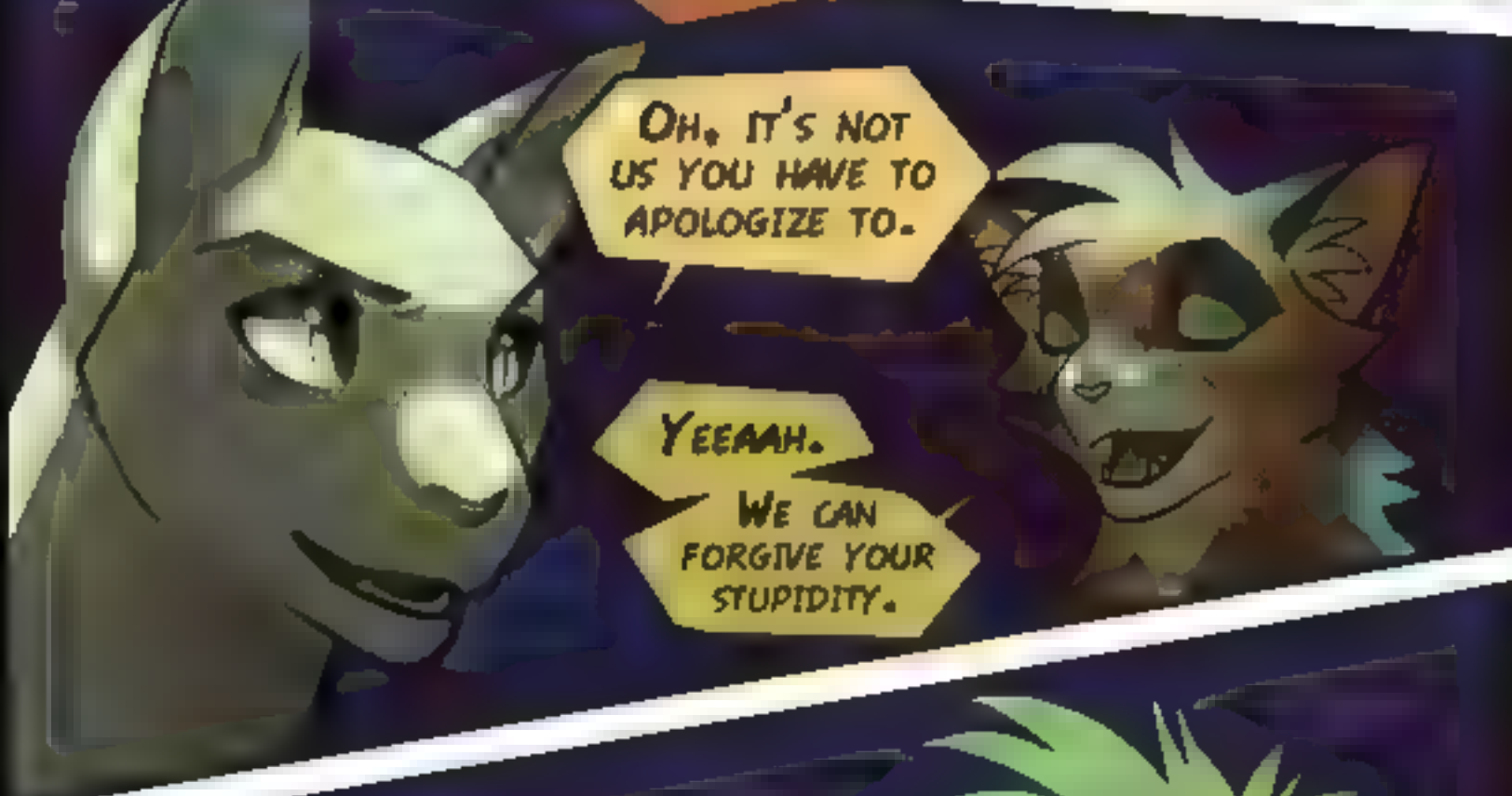
ARE YOU
QUESTIONING MY
DEPUTY?





YOU NEED TO
CONSIDER A DIFFERENT
APPROACH.


SORRY...



OH, IT'S NOT
US YOU HAVE TO
APOLOGIZE TO.

YEEAAH.

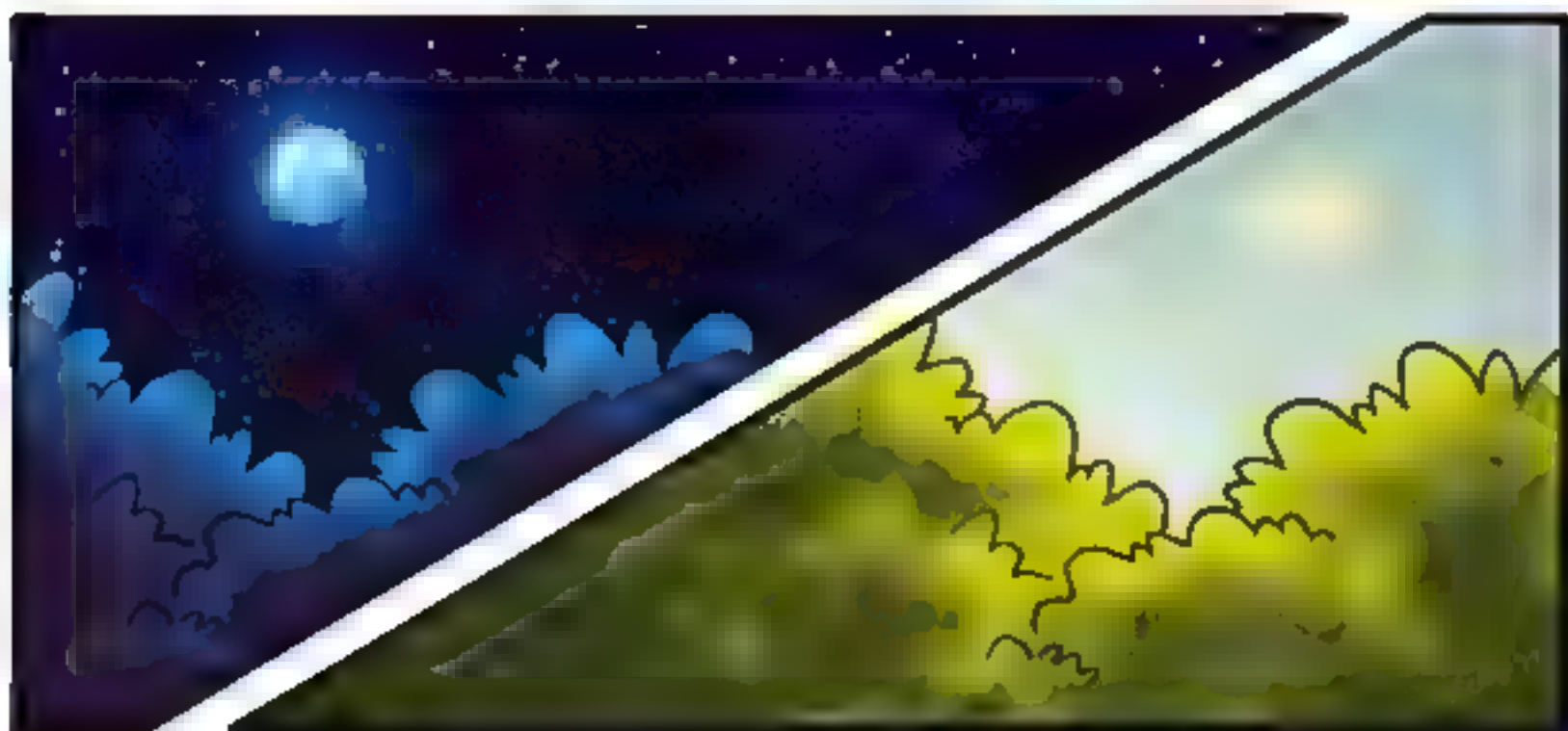
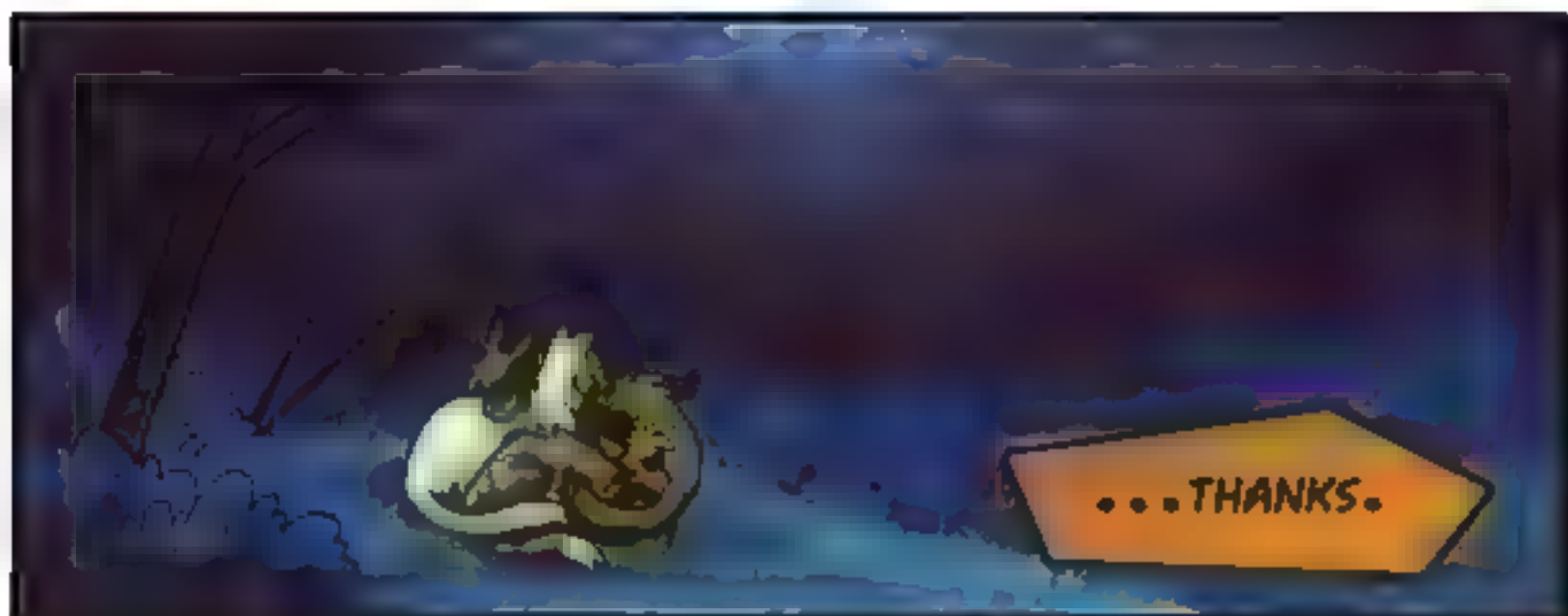
WE CAN
FORGIVE YOUR
STUPIDITY.



WHAT AM I
SUPPOSED TO DO?

SHE'S SO
STUBBORN...

SOUNDS FAMILIAR.







BUT THOSE WHO
RUN FROM A FIGHT...



...ARE UNWORTHY
OF THEIR CLAN.

I HOPE YOU WOULDN'T
BRING SUCH DISGRACE TO
YOUR CLAN, RAVENPAW.

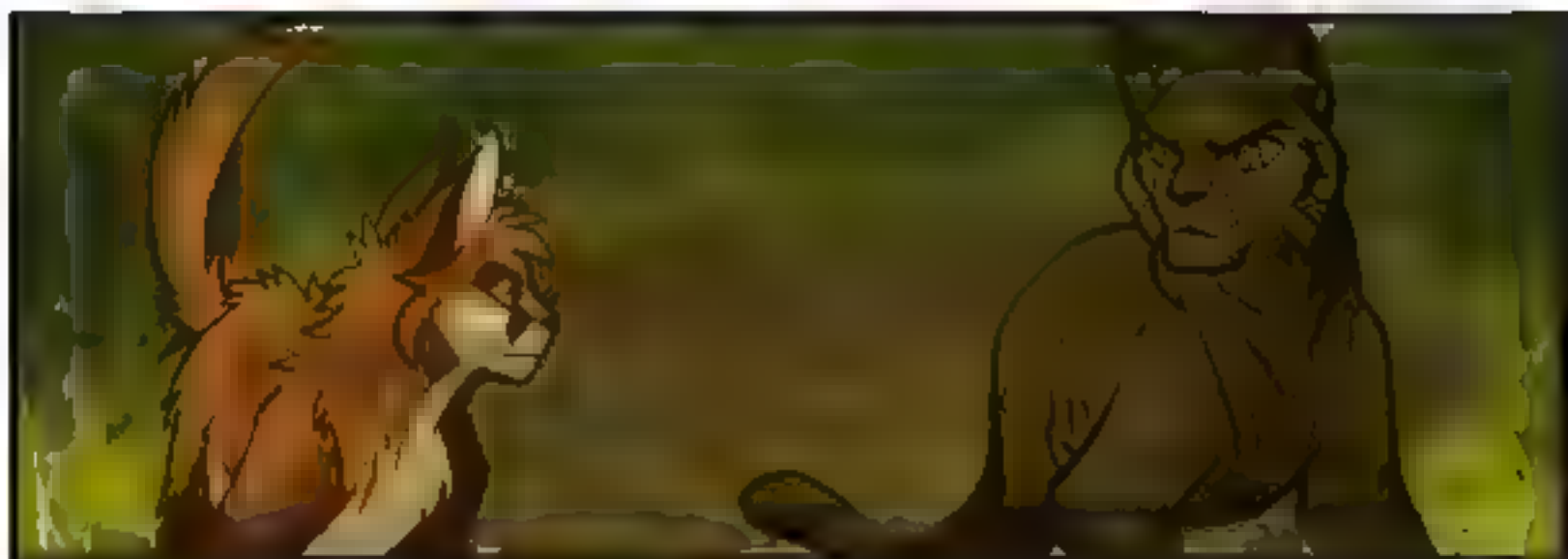


LIGHTEN UP,
TIGERCLAW. THIS IS
JUST TRAINING.

IT WON'T ALWAYS
BE. AND HE'S MY
APPRENTICE.

AND YOU
ARE UNDER MY
AUTHORITY.

OR SHOULD
I FIND SOMEONE ELSE
TO MENTOR HIM?





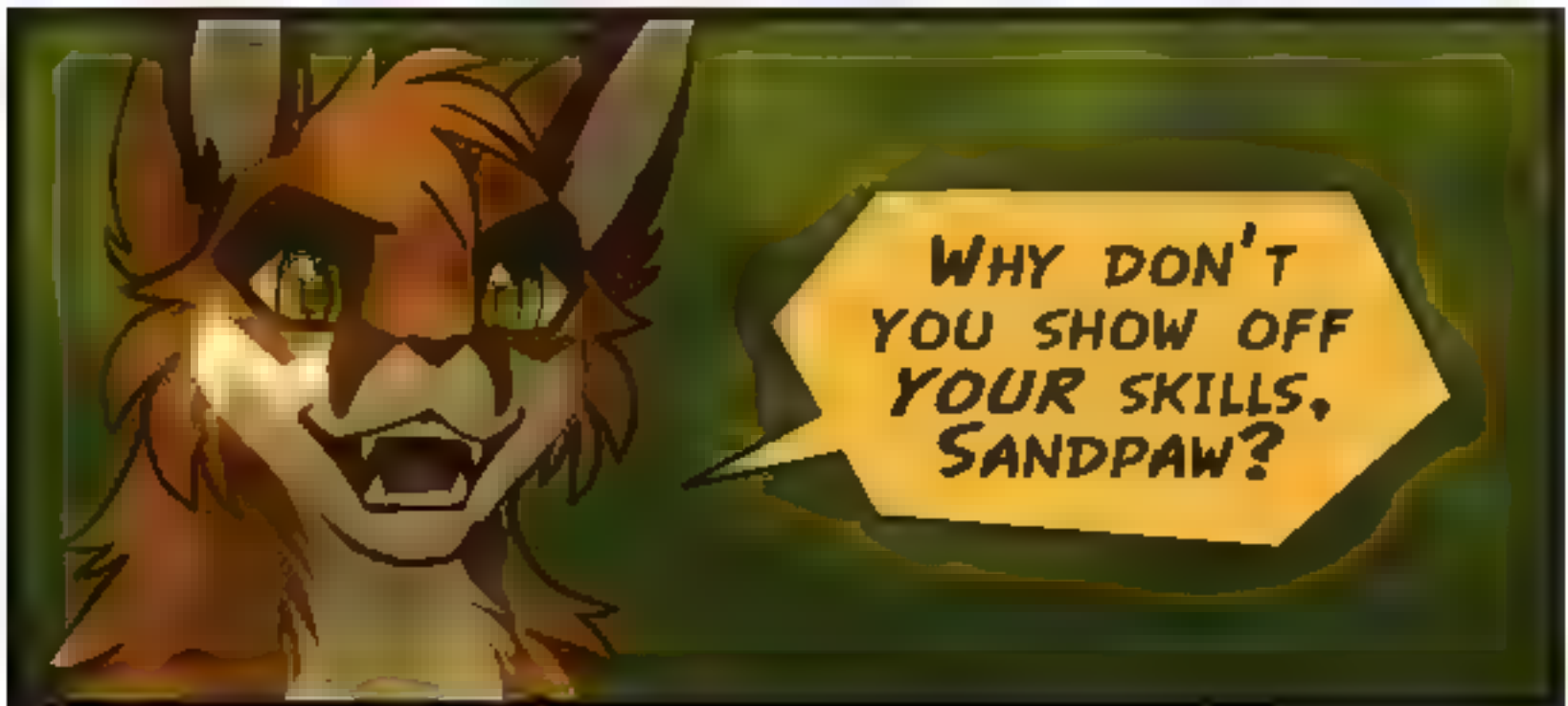
I SEE YOU'VE
FINALLY DECIDED
TO JOIN US.

WHITESTORM,
SANDPAW.

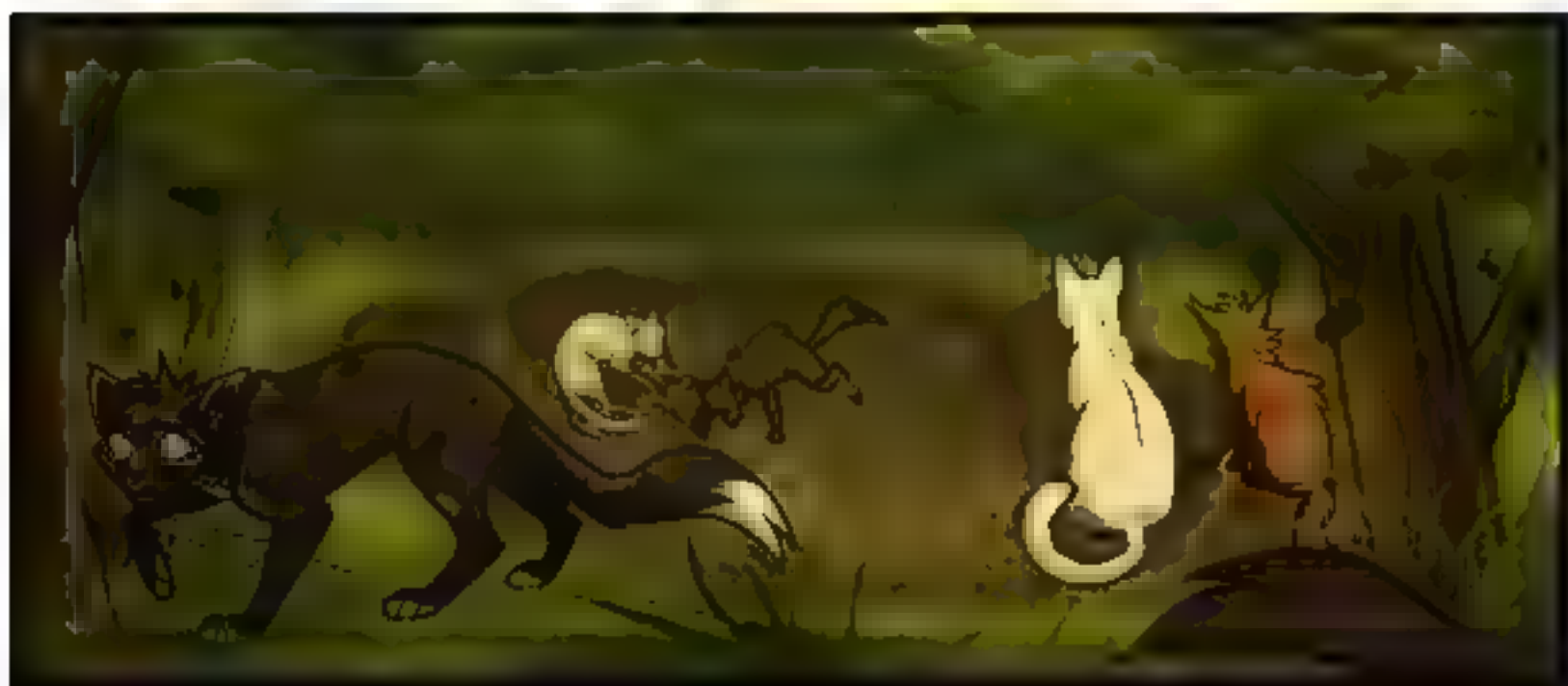
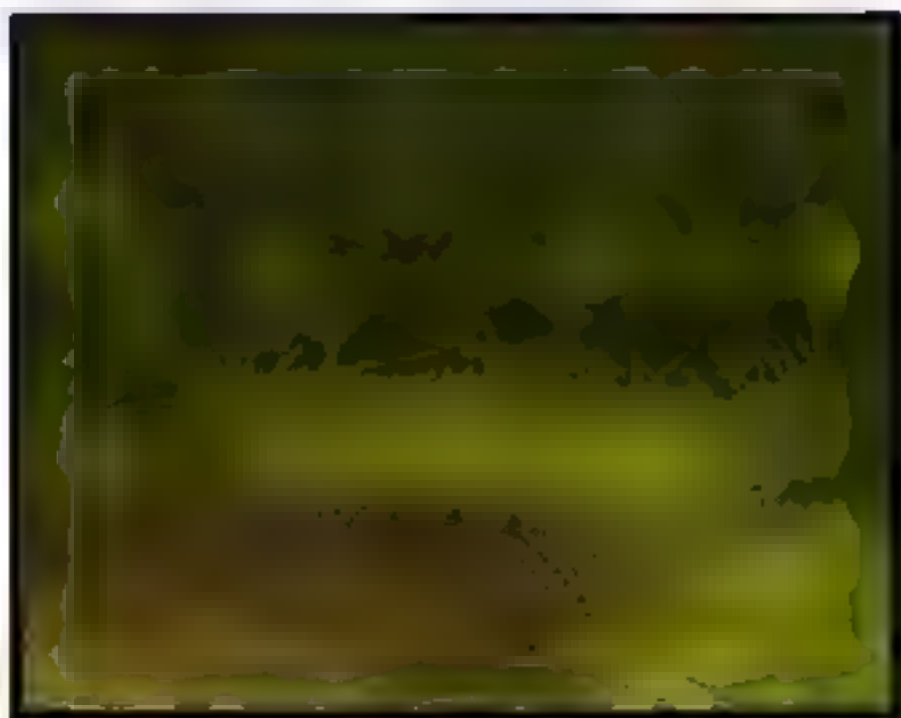


DUSTPAW WAS JUST
DEMONSTRATING HIS
FIGHTING SKILLS.

NOT BAD,
BUT HE COULD USE
SOME HELP.



WHY DON'T
YOU SHOW OFF
YOUR SKILLS,
SANDPAW?





WHAT--?

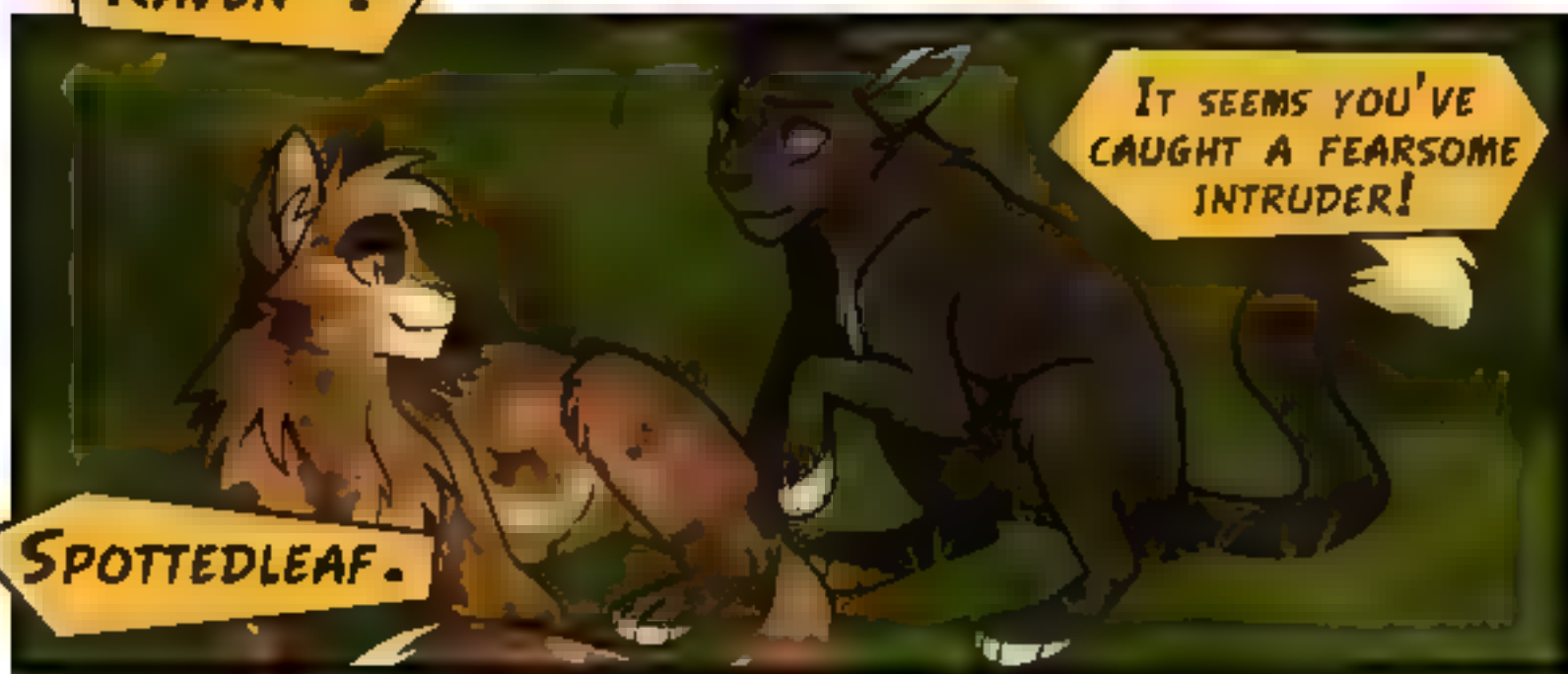




RAVEN--!



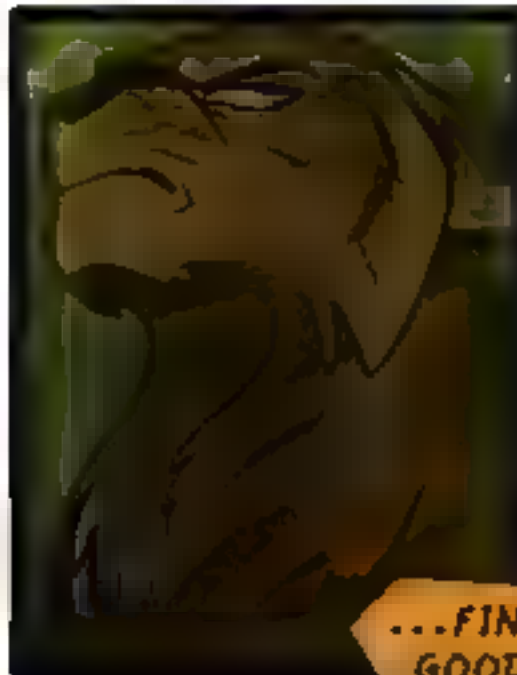
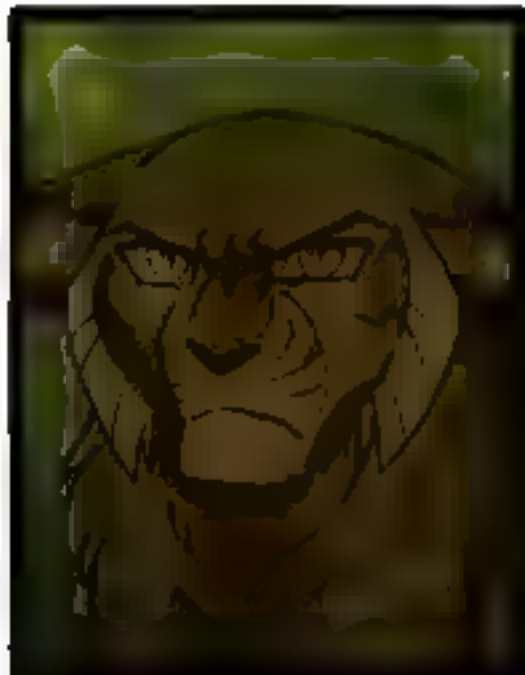
...OH.



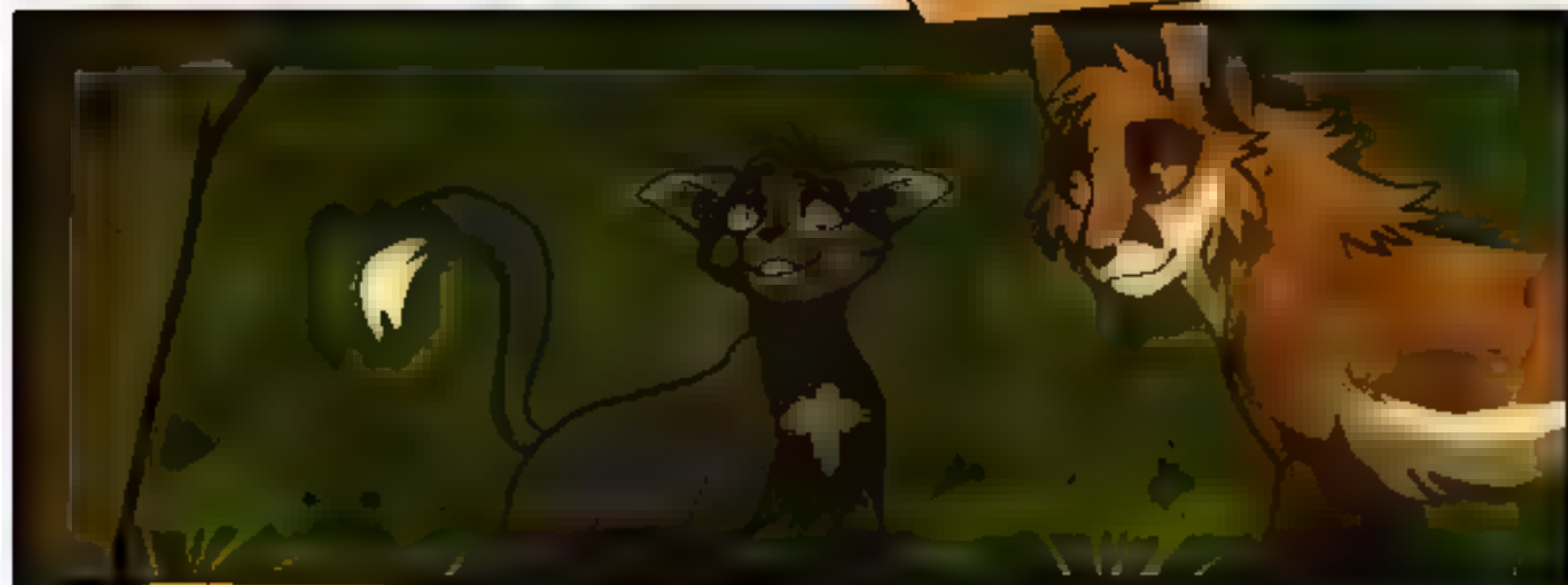
SPOTTEDLEAF.

IT SEEMS YOU'VE
CAUGHT A FEARSOME
INTRUDER!





...FINE, YES,
GOOD JOB.



WHY DON'T
YOU HEAD BACK TO
CAMP, GET YOURSELF
SOMETHING TO EAT?


WE'LL BE
ALONG SHORTLY.

OKAY!




YOU SPOIL HIM,
REDTAIL.

BETTER THAN
BULLYING HIM.



I THINK
TIGERCLAW'S RIGHT.

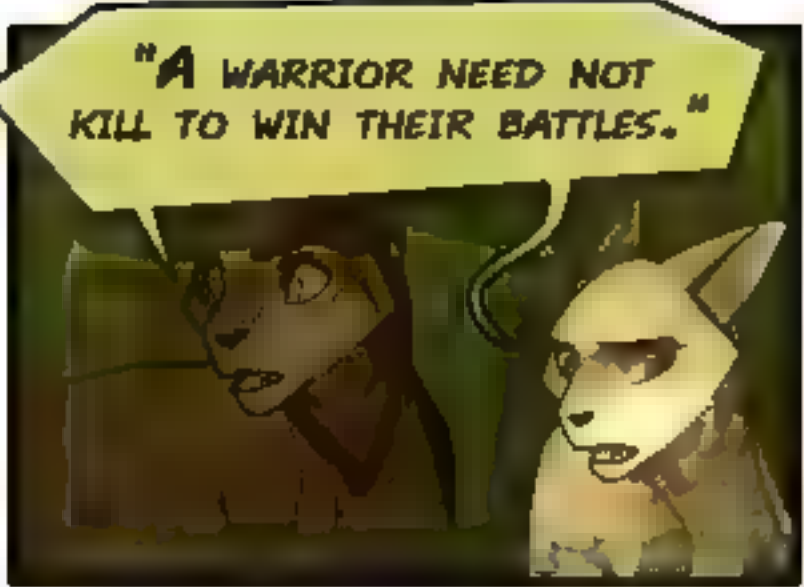
CAN WE AFFORD
TO PLAY NICE WHEN OUR
ENEMIES WON'T BE?




WE'RE BETTER
THAN OUR ENEMIES.

WE CAN ALWAYS
AFFORD MERCY.


NEVER FORGET THE
WARRIOR CODE.

A dark, moody scene featuring two anthropomorphic cats. On the left, a brown cat with a dark collar looks towards the right. On the right, a white cat with a dark collar looks back at the brown cat. The background is dark and indistinct.

"A WARRIOR NEED NOT
KILL TO WIN THEIR BATTLES."

A closer shot of the two cats. The brown cat is on the left, looking slightly away with a serious expression. The white cat is on the right, looking directly at the brown cat with a questioning or challenging expression.

...BUT WHAT IF
YOU HAVE TO?

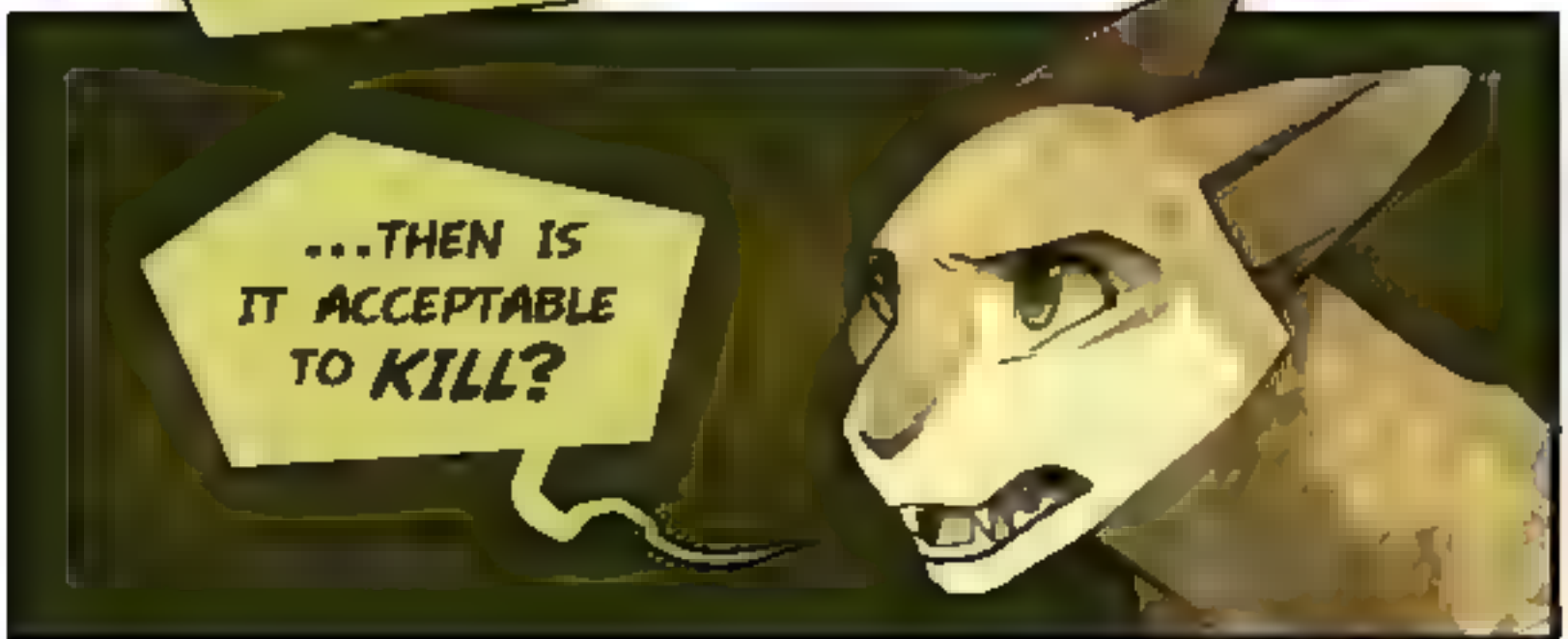
The white cat is shown in profile, facing left, with its mouth open as if speaking. The brown cat is visible in the background, looking on. The scene is dark with some light reflecting off the cats' fur.

WHAT IF IT'S
EITHER THEM OR YOU

AND THEY'RE
NOT ABOUT TO LET
YOU GET AWAY

YOU DON'T
HAVE A CHOICE

IF THEY'RE
JUST GONNA HURT
EVERYBODY...

A large, close-up shot of the white cat's face. It has a determined, almost fierce expression, with its eyes wide and its mouth slightly open, showing its teeth. The background is dark.

...THEN IS
IT ACCEPTABLE
TO **KILL**?



...IDEALLY, IT'S
STILL A NO. YOU SHOULD
NEVER BE PUT IN THAT
SITUATION.

WHY ARE YOU
THINKING ABOUT THAT
KIND OF THING?

I GUESS...

WE JUST
HEAR ALL THESE
STORIES...

ABOUT ROGUES,
OTHER CLANS...

...EVEN KITTYPETS.

IF ANYONE TRIES
TO HURT MY CLAN,
I'LL...!

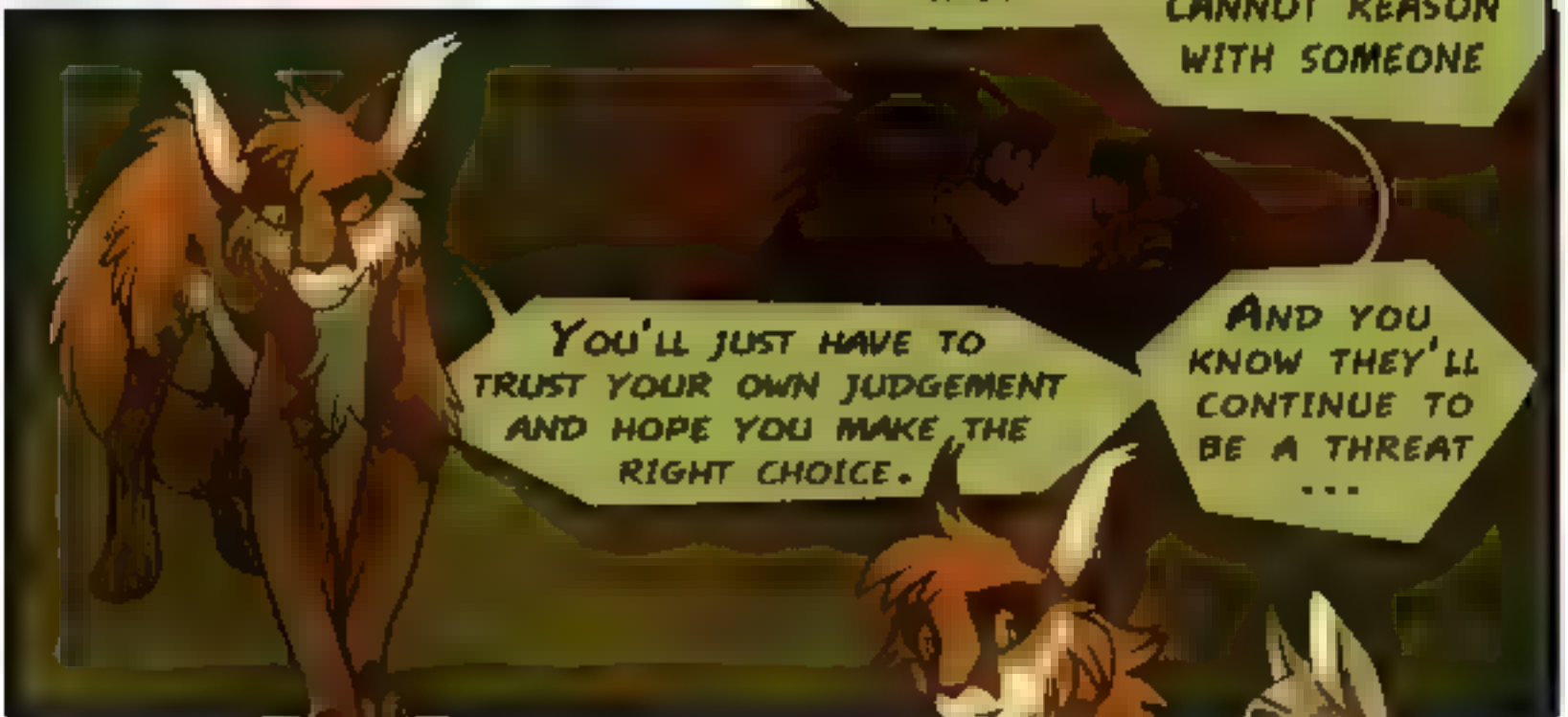
I'LL KILL THEM!



SANDPAW...

THERE MAY BE
TIMES

WHEN YOU
CANNOT REASON
WITH SOMEONE



YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO
TRUST YOUR OWN JUDGEMENT
AND HOPE YOU MAKE THE
RIGHT CHOICE.

AND YOU
KNOW THEY'LL
CONTINUE TO
BE A THREAT
...

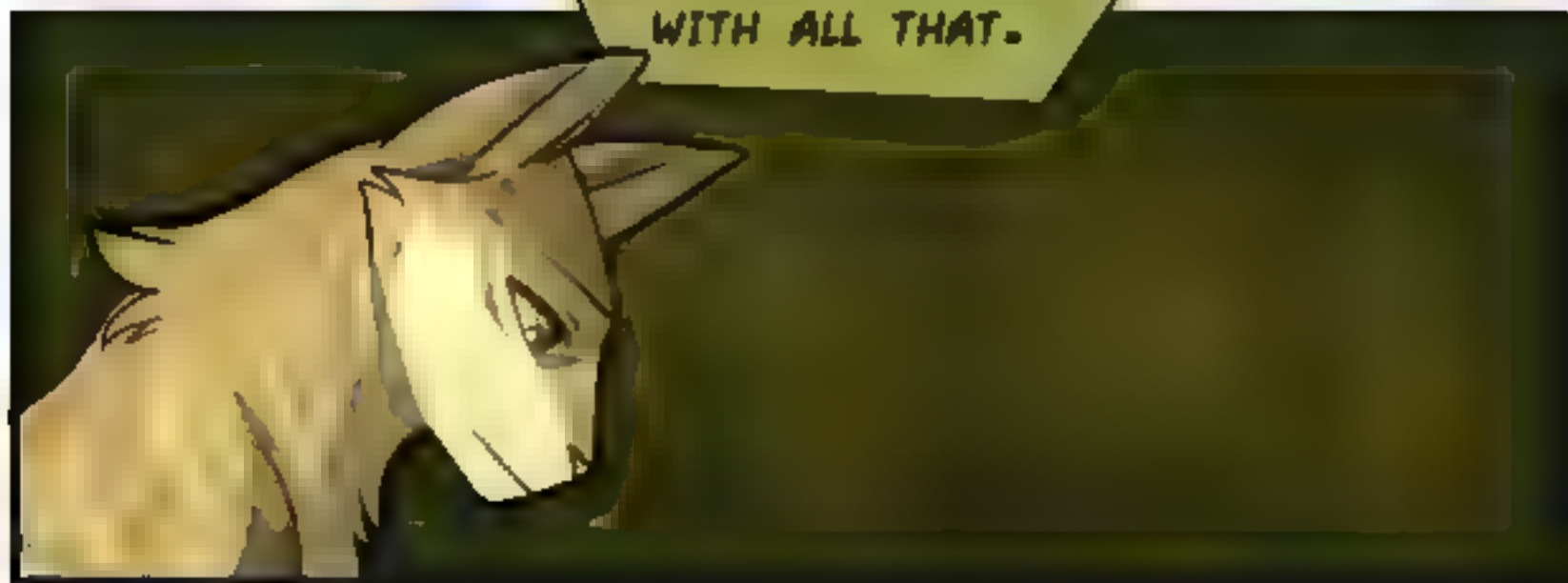


...BUT I HOPE
YOU'LL NEVER BE FACED
WITH THAT KIND OF
DECISION.



HAVE YOU EVER
HAD TO DEAL WITH THAT
KIND OF THING?

NAH, MOST
CATS DON'T BOTHER
WITH ALL THAT.



...YOU KNOW,
YOU'RE A PRETTY
GOOD DEPUTY.



Y-YOU MEAN IT?

WELL, YEAH.
IF YOU WEREN'T, YOU
WOULDN'T BE DEPUTY.

HE'S A GREAT
MENTOR, TOO!



HEY, WHAT
ABOUT ME?

YOU'RE GOOD, TOO,
WHITESTORM, BUT YOU'RE
NOT DEPUTY!



ARE YOU SAYING WHITESTORM
COULDN'T BE DEPUTY?

WELL, IF HE MADE A
BETTER DEPUTY, HE WOULD
BE DEPUTY!

WHAT, DO YOU
NOT TRUST BLUESTAR'S
JUDGEMENT?



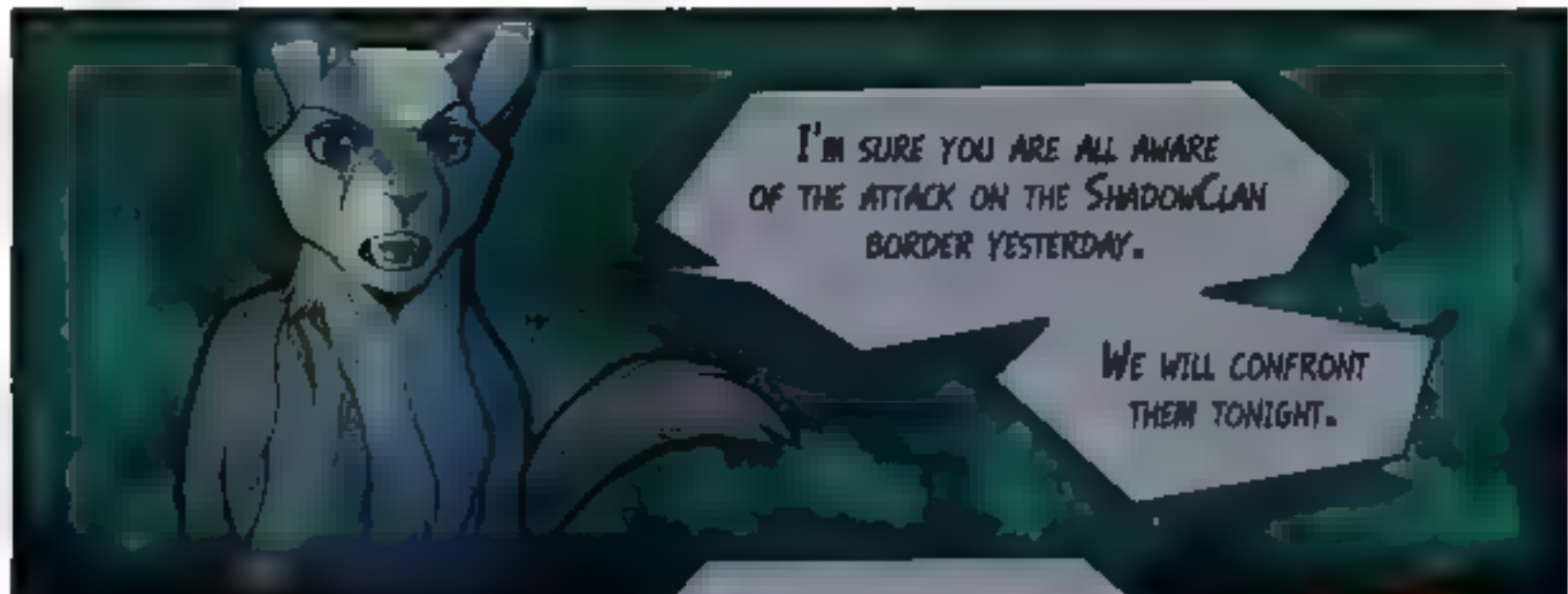
SEE?


THEY BELIEVE
IN YOU.



WHY DON'T YOU?






A scene in a dark forest at night. Three cats are present. On the right, a white cat with a blue collar stands looking towards the left. In the center, a dark brown cat with a red collar is partially visible. On the left, a light brown cat with a blue collar is looking towards the white cat.

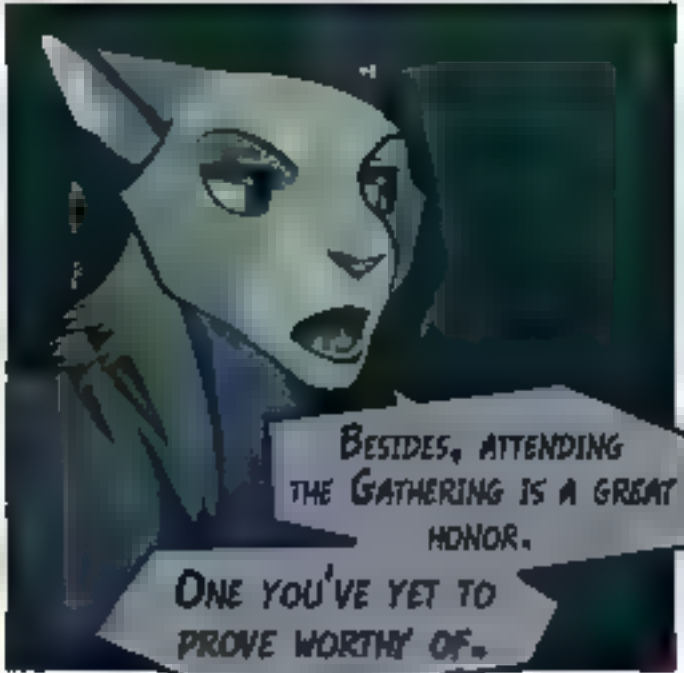
HEY, WHAT ABOUT US?

WON'T THE OTHER CLANS
THINK WE'RE WEAK IF YOU DON'T
BRING ANY APPRENTICES?

A close-up shot of two cats. On the left, a light brown cat with a blue collar and a black eye patch is looking towards the right. On the right, a white cat with a blue collar is looking towards the light brown cat. The background is dark and blurry.


SHADOWCLAN IS CURRENTLY
UNPREDICTABLE. THE GATHERING
MAY BE DANGEROUS.

HEY, IT'S OKAY.
THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT
MOON.


A close-up shot of a white cat with a blue collar. The cat has a determined expression and is looking slightly to the right.

BESIDES, ATTENDING
THE GATHERING IS A GREAT
HONOR.

ONE YOU'VE YET TO
PROVE WORTHY OF.

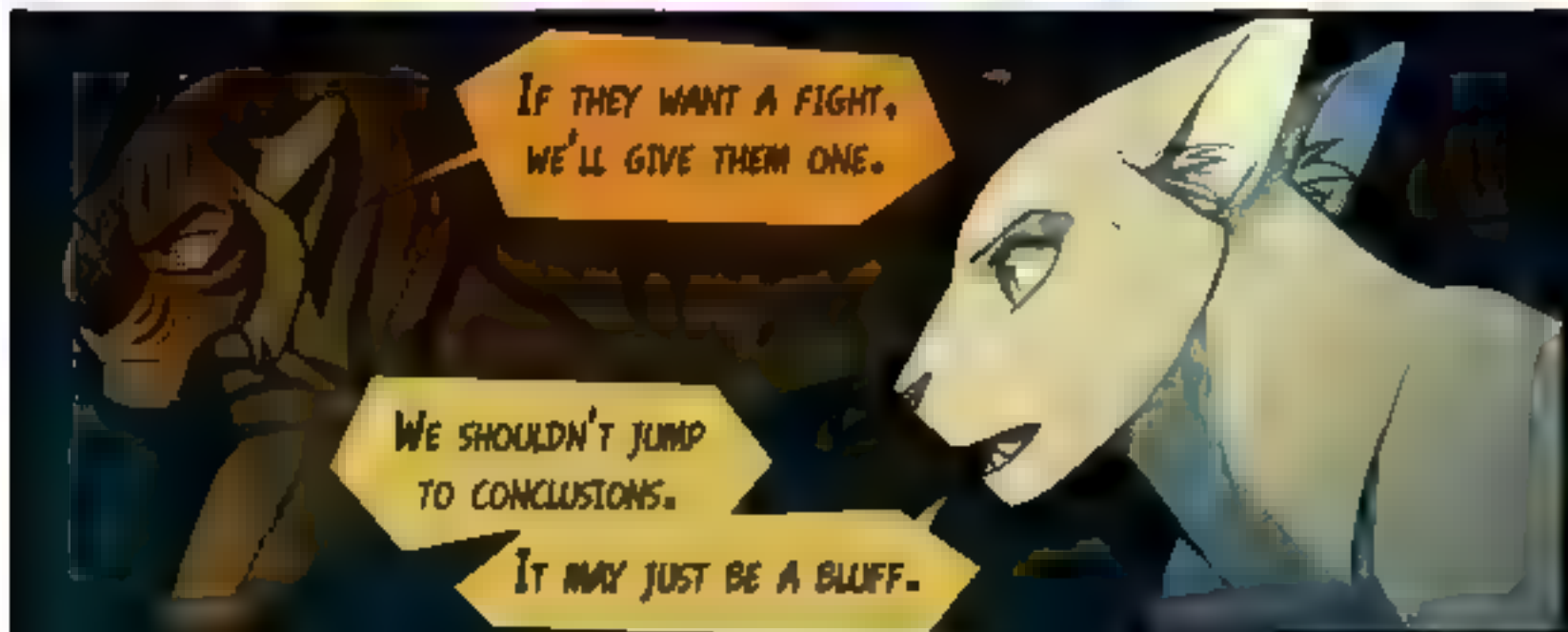
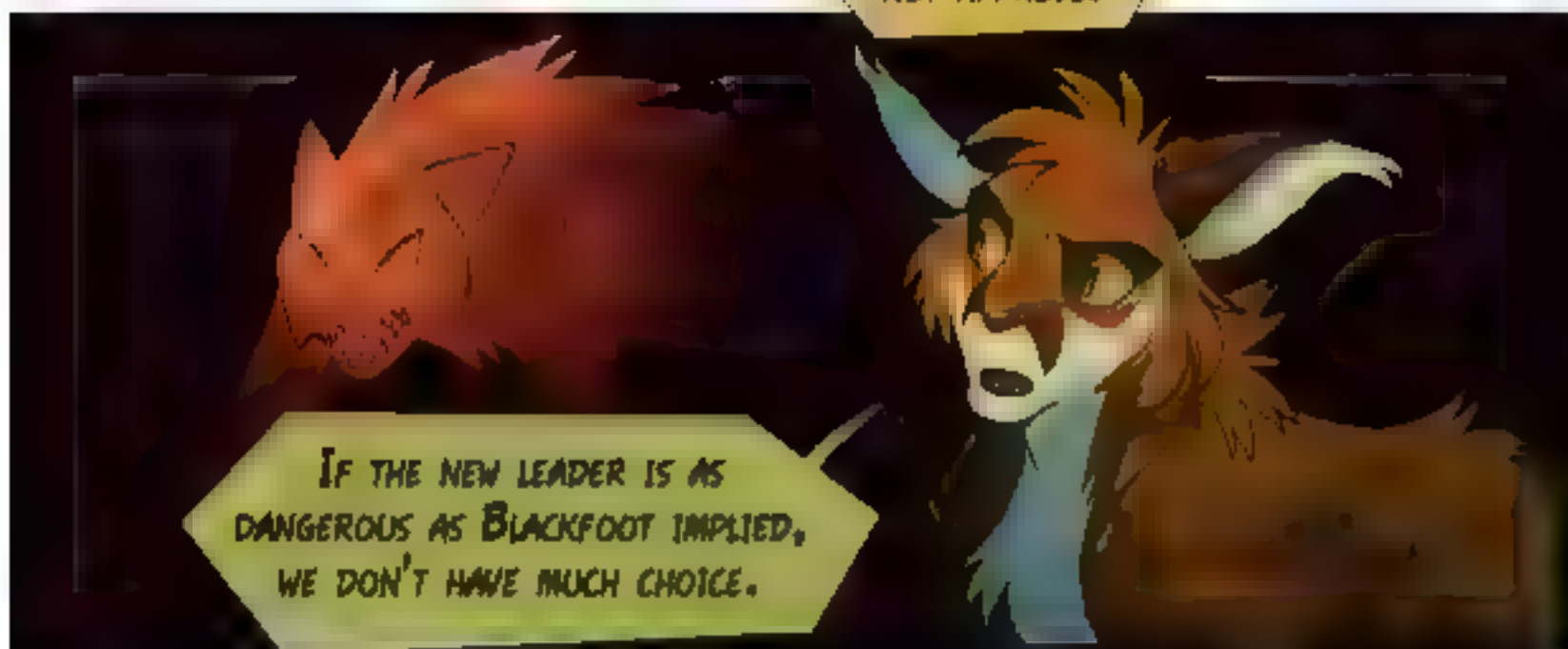


GOOD LUCK AT THE
GATHERING, REDTAIL.



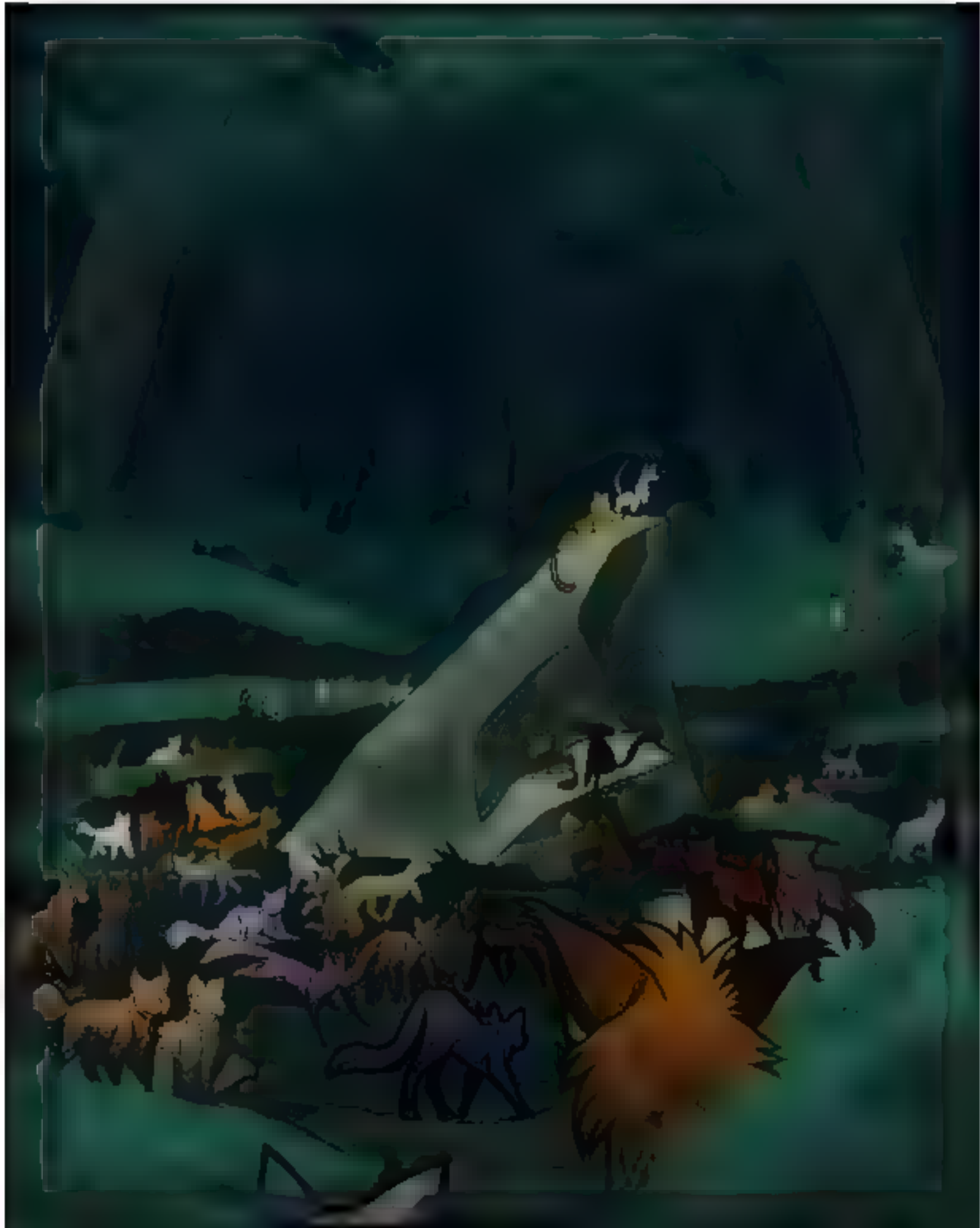
THANKS,
LIONHEART!

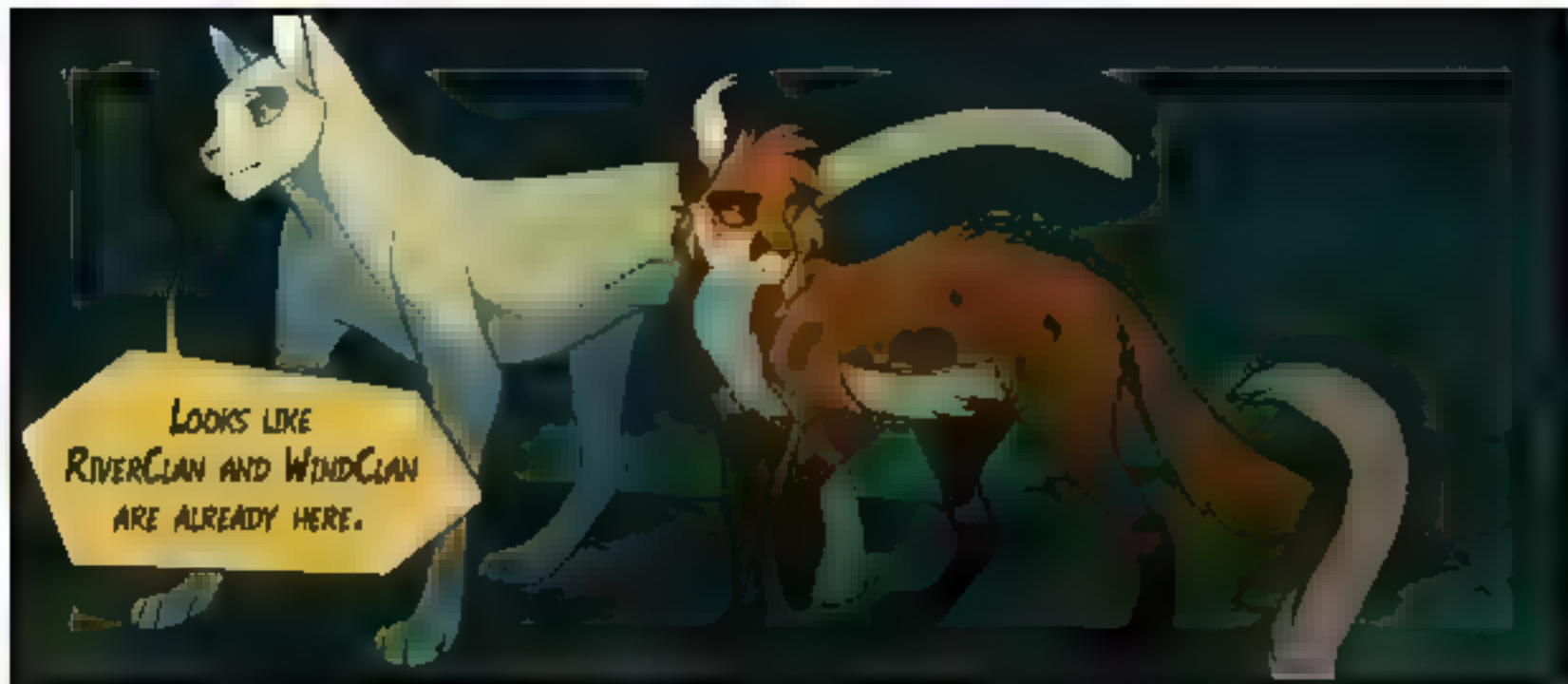
GOOD LUCK WITH
THE APPRENTICES!

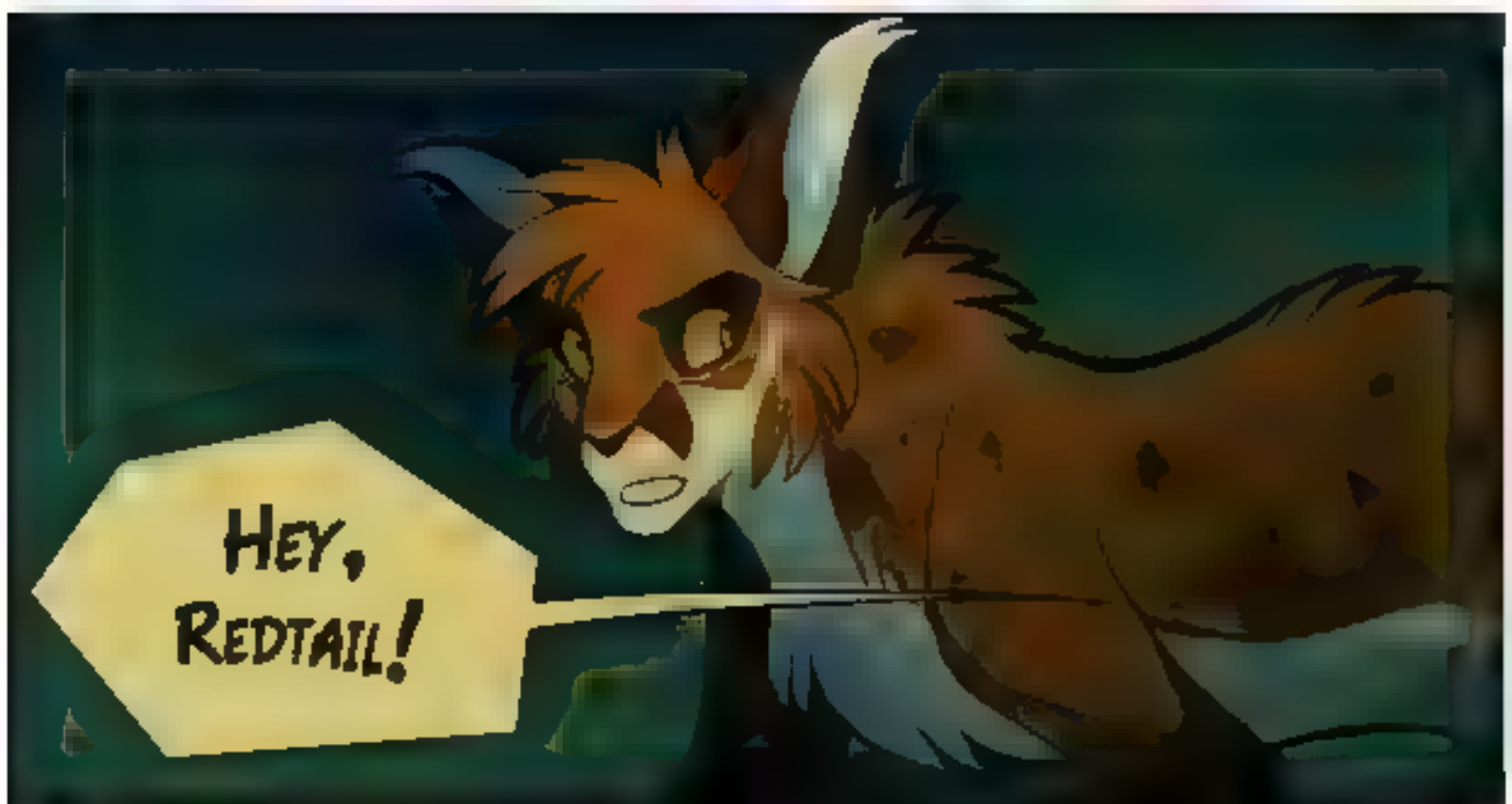
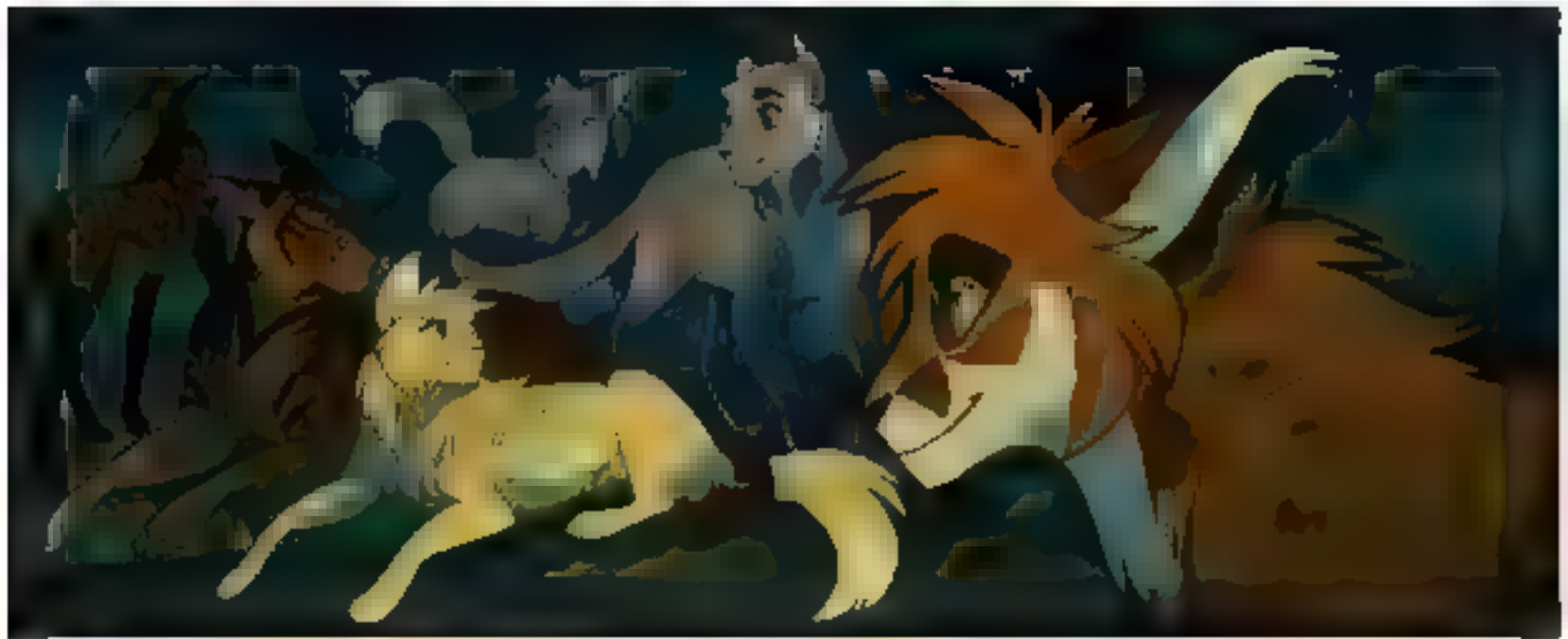
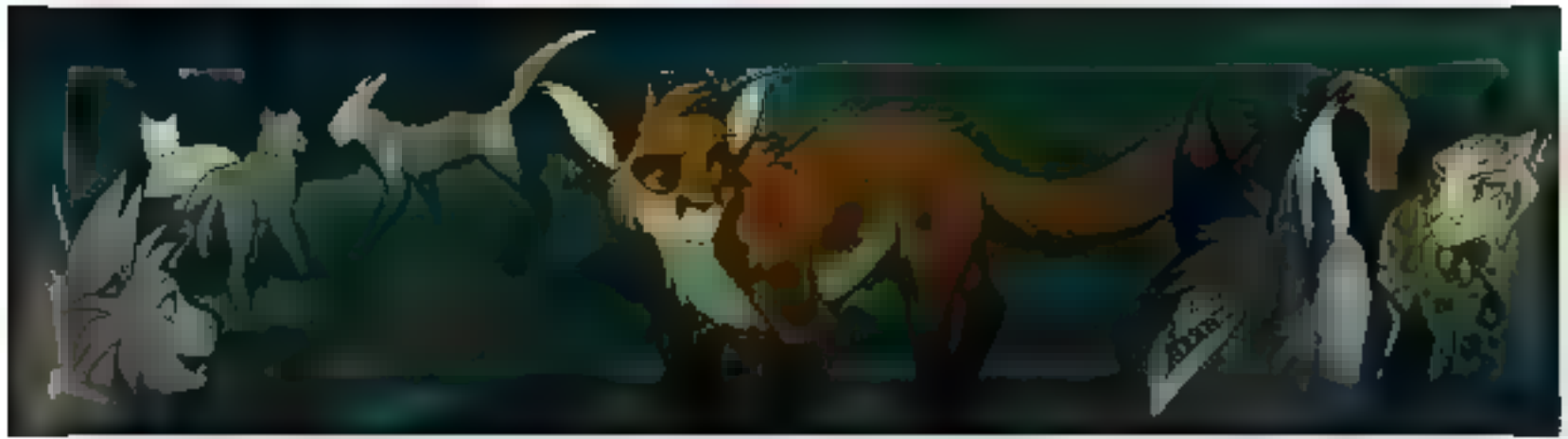




WE'LL FIND OUT
SOON ENOUGH.





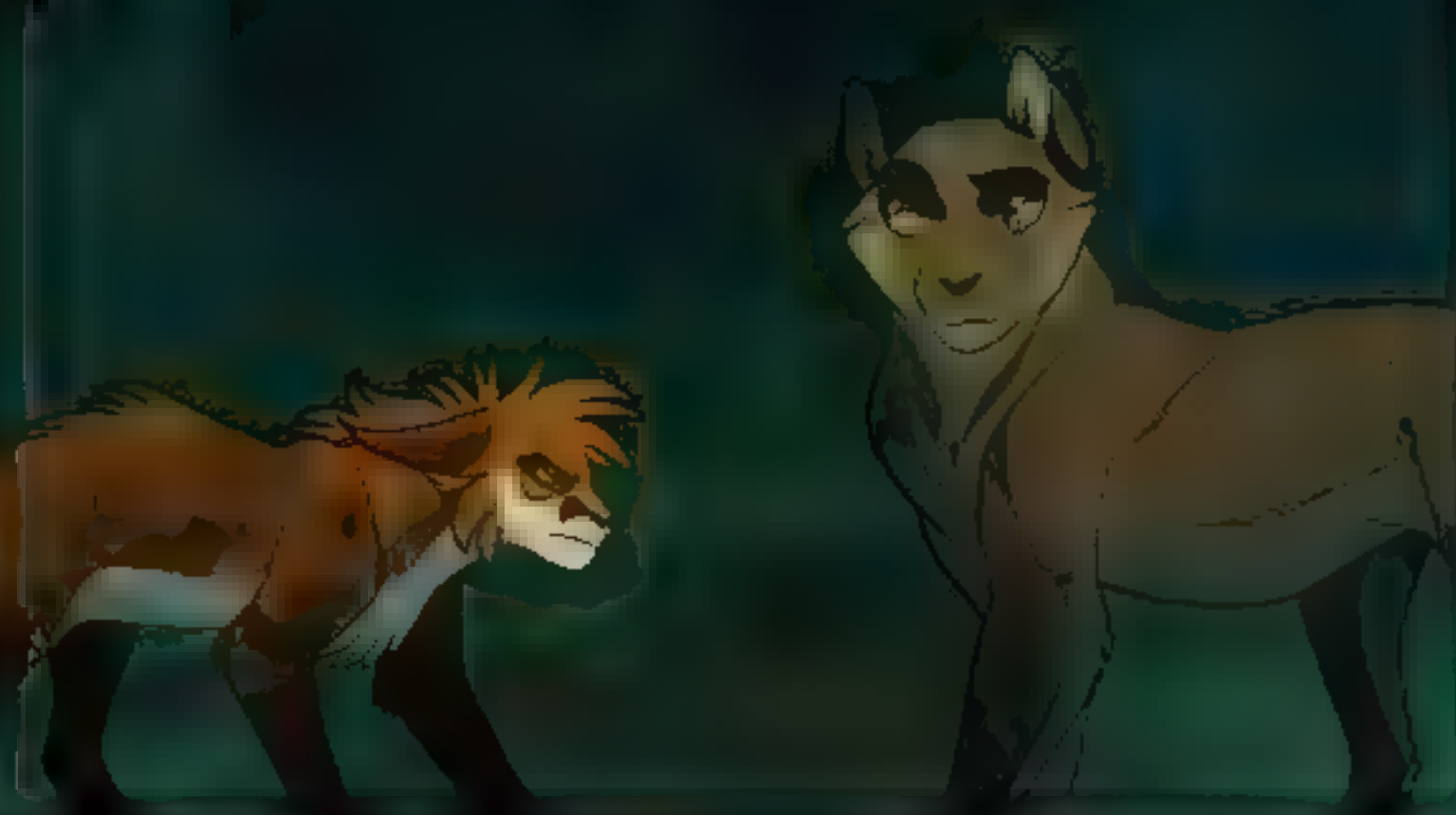



HEY,
REDTAIL!




AND BLUESTAR? SHE'S WELL?

WHY DO YOU CARE.





DESPITE OUR
DIFFERENCES, I DO RESPECT
MY NEIGHBORS.



AND YOURS IS A WISE
AND INTELLIGENT LEADER.

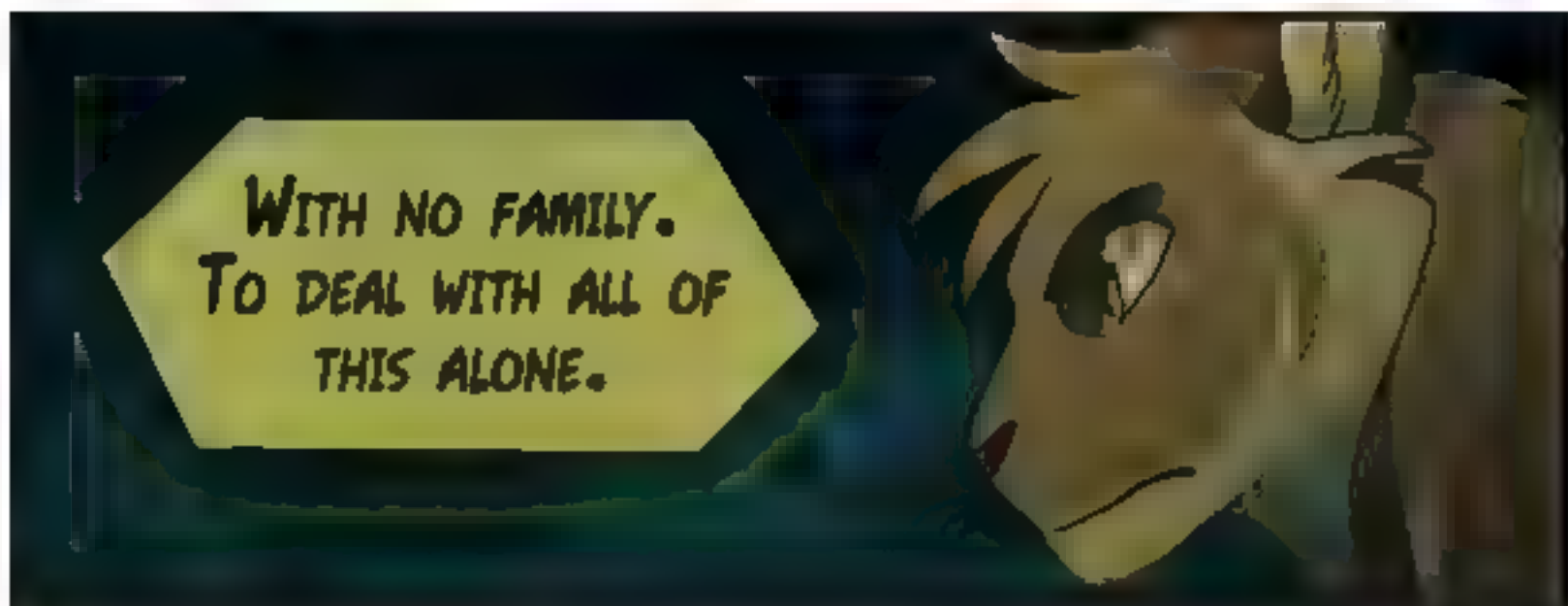
I HOPE SHE
CONTINUES TO LEAD
YOUR CLAN WELL.



THEN WHY DID YOU
LEAVE HER?



....I'M SORRY?





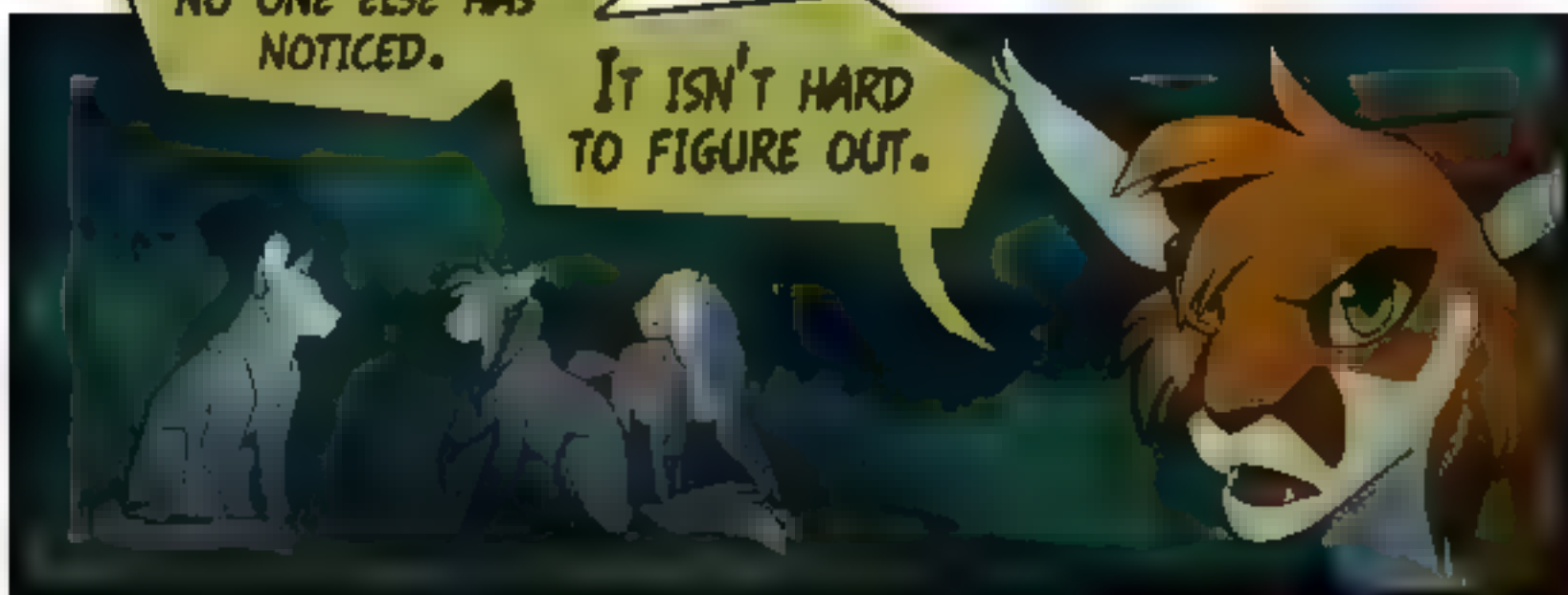
©Disney

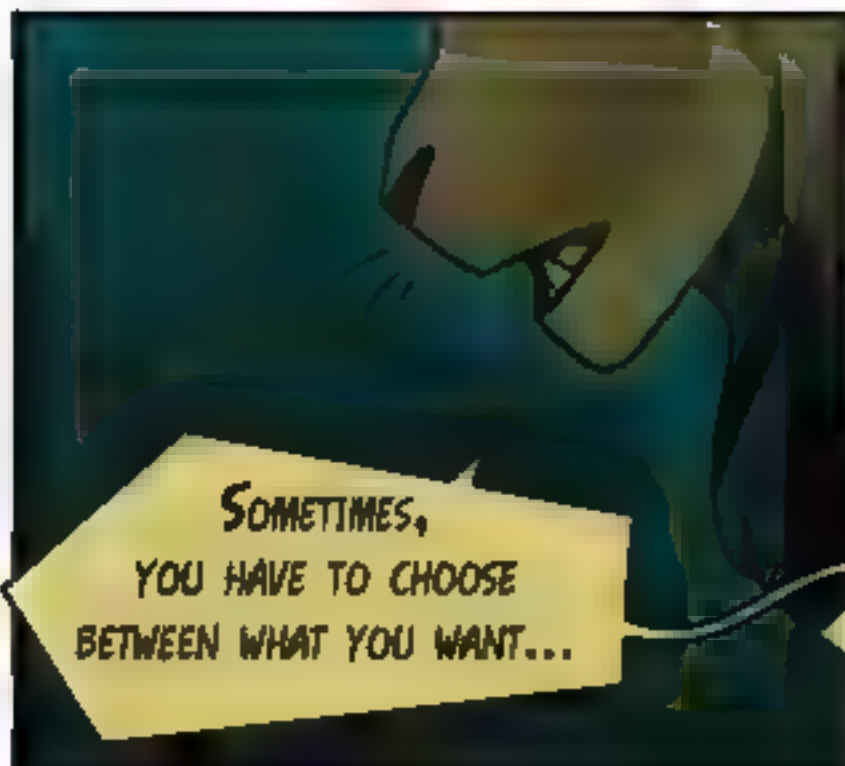
HOW LONG HAVE
YOU KNOWN?

ABOUT A MOON.

YOU'RE LUCKY
NO ONE ELSE HAS
NOTICED.

IT ISN'T HARD
TO FIGURE OUT.







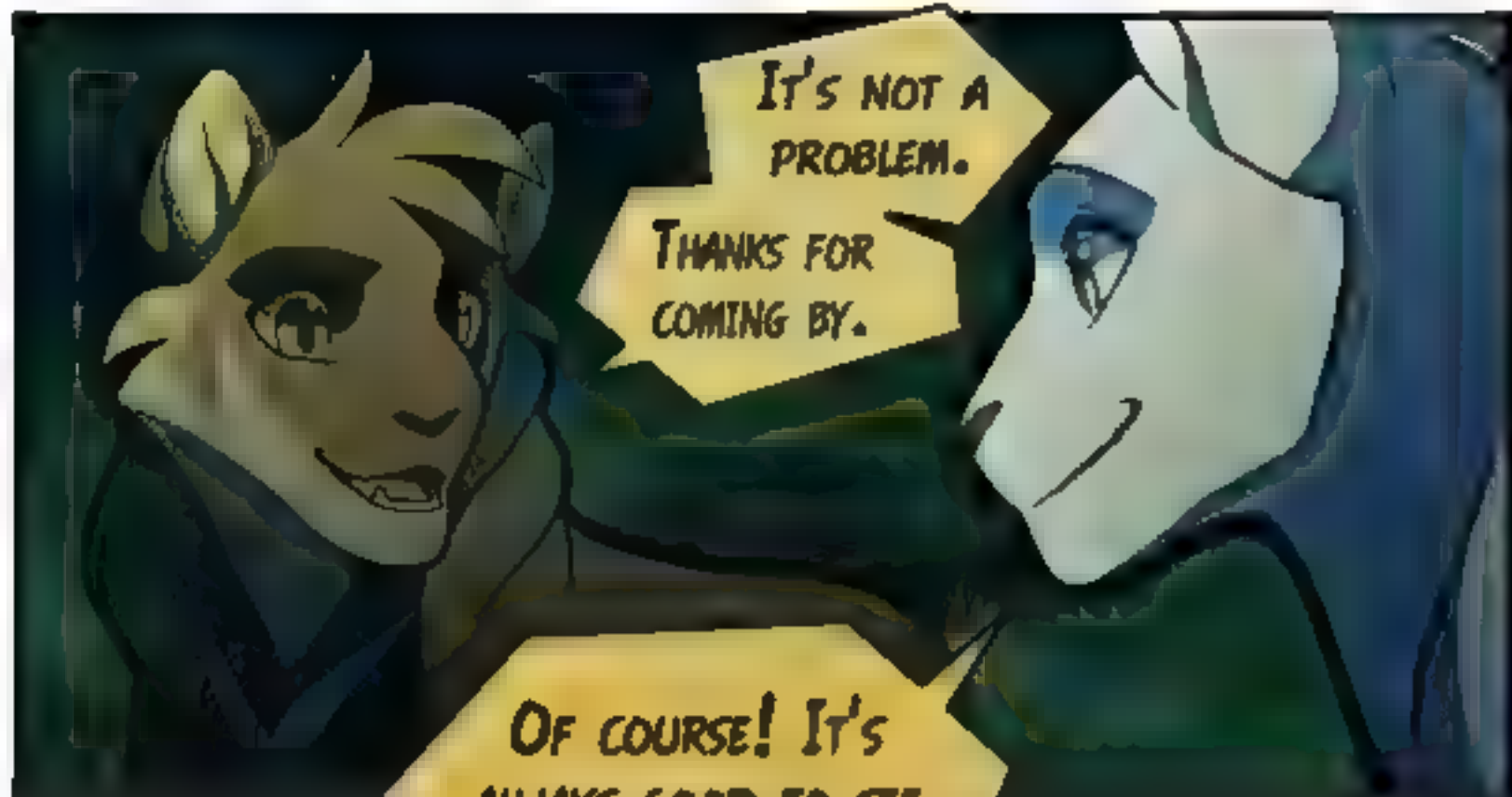
YOU DON'T
SERIOUSLY--

OI!



HEY,
OAKHEART!

IS MY DEPUTY
BOTHERING YOU?



IT'S NOT A
PROBLEM.

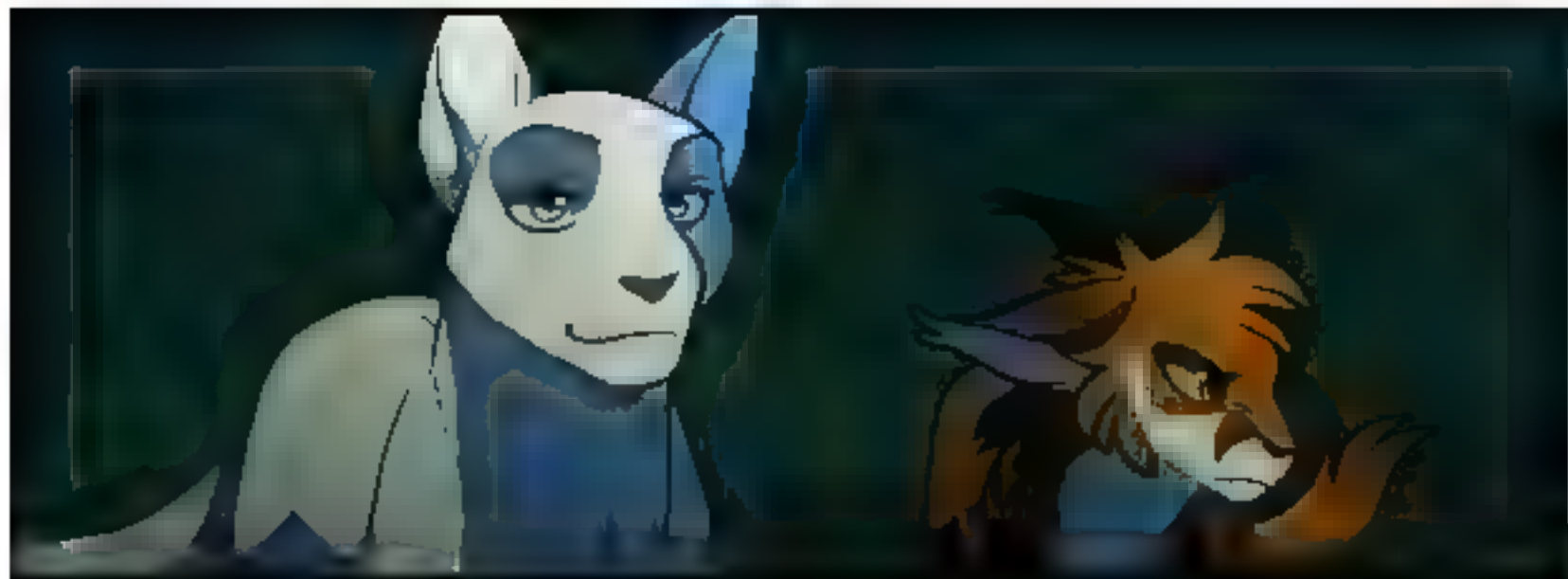
THANKS FOR
COMING BY.

OF COURSE! IT'S
ALWAYS GOOD TO SEE
YOU, OAKHEART.



I HOPE NOT TO CATCH
YOU AT OUR BORDERS!

SAME TO YOU!





DO YOU WANT TO GET
BLUESTAR IN TROUBLE?

AT A GATHERING,
NO LESS?


IT ISN'T RIGHT
SHE GAVE IT ALL UP,
FOR NOTHING.

MY AUNT IS MANY
THINGS, REDTAIL.

BUT YOU'RE DISREGARDING
EVERYTHING SHE'S DONE FOR US.


THE SACRIFICES SHE'S MADE
HAVE TO BE WORTH IT.





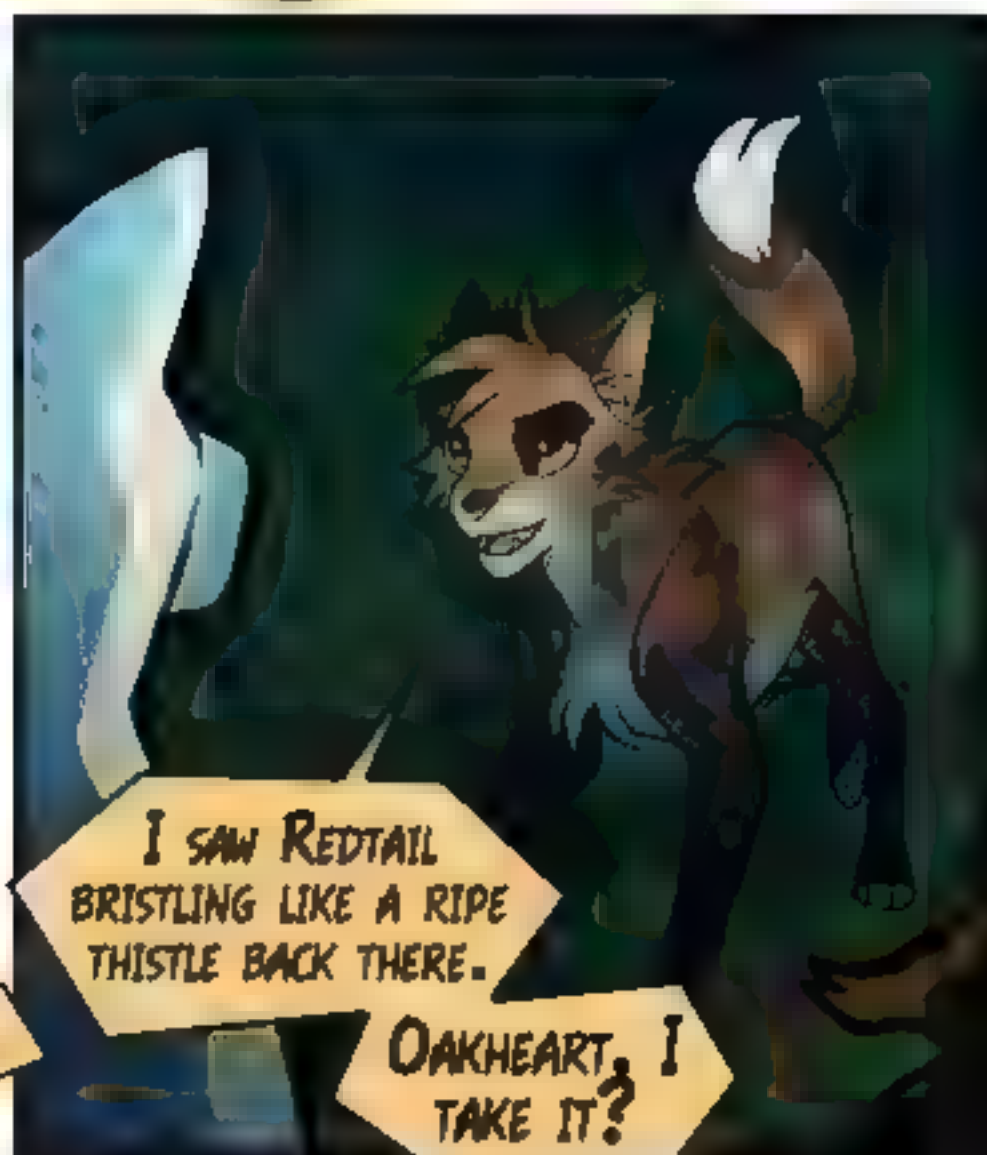
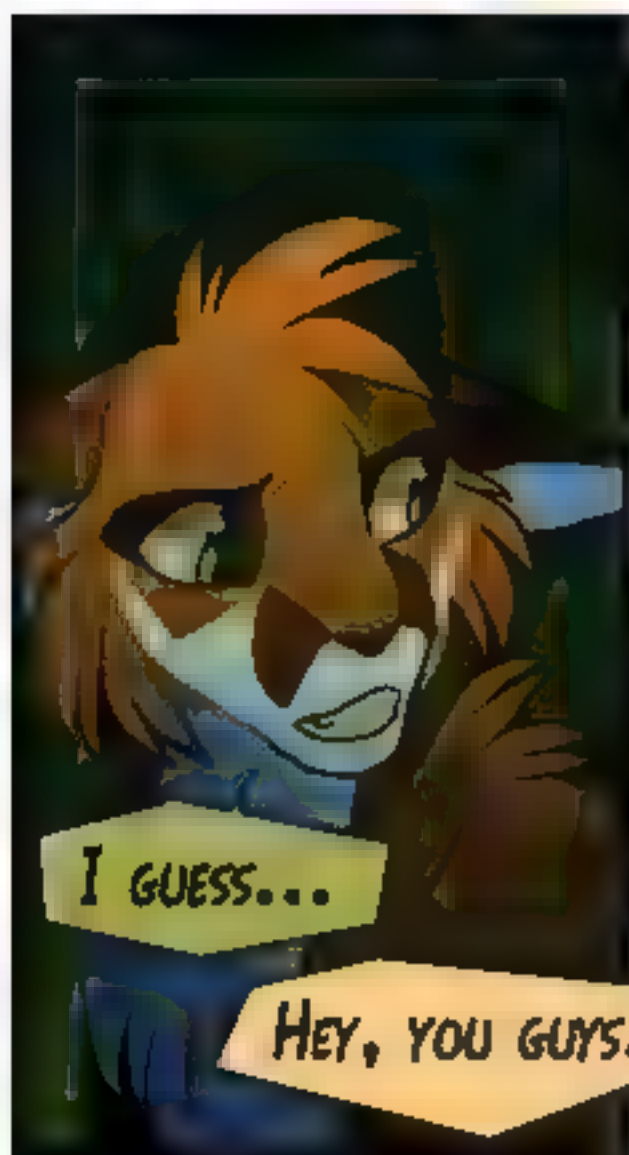
IS IT EVER WORTH IT
TO LEAVE YOUR FAMILY
FOR YOUR CLAN?

SHE MADE HER
CHOICE. ALL WE CAN
DO IS RESPECT IT.



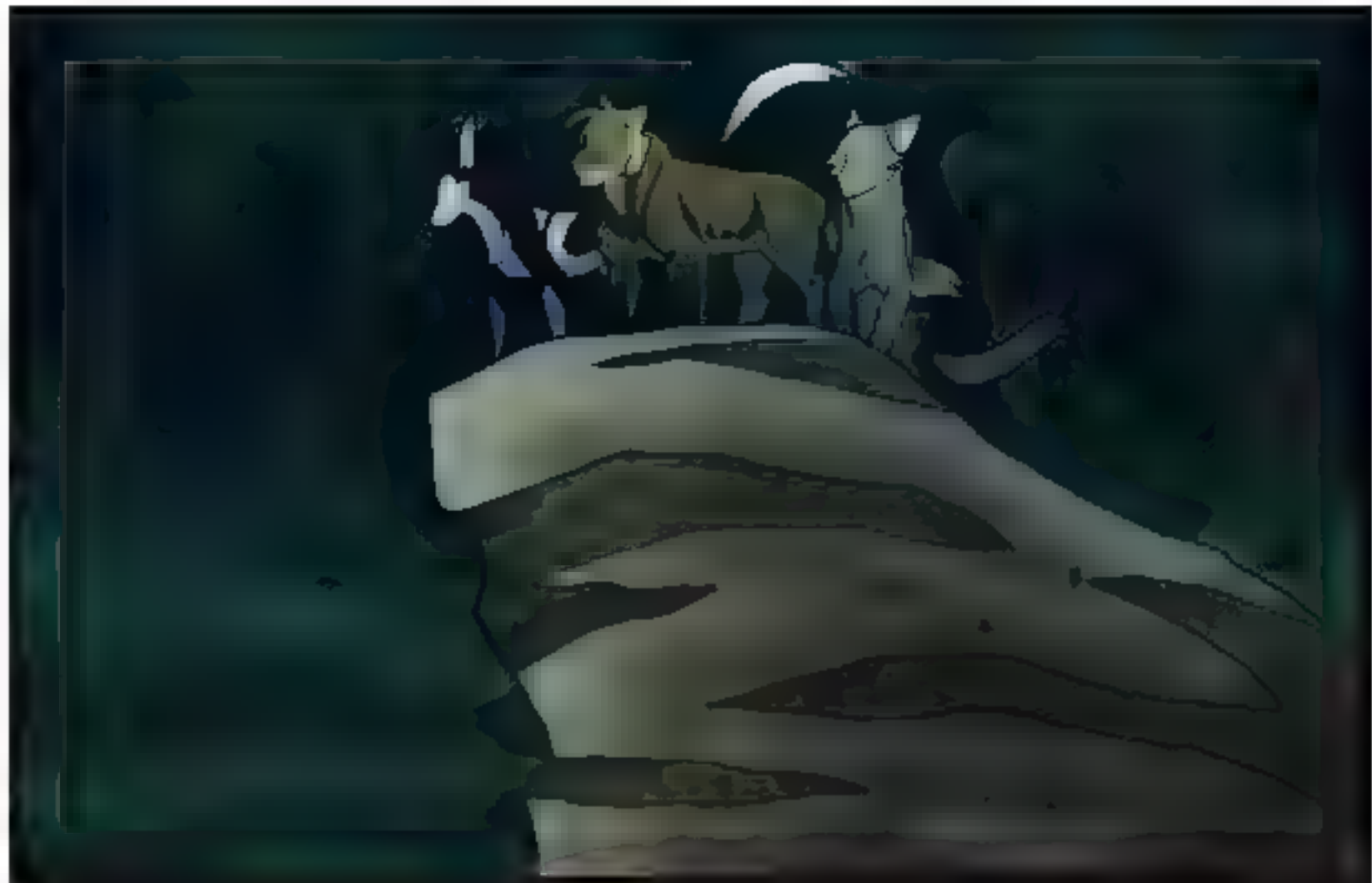
ONE DAY, WE
MAY HAVE TO MAKE A
SIMILAR DECISION.


FOR THE SAKE
OF OUR CLAN.








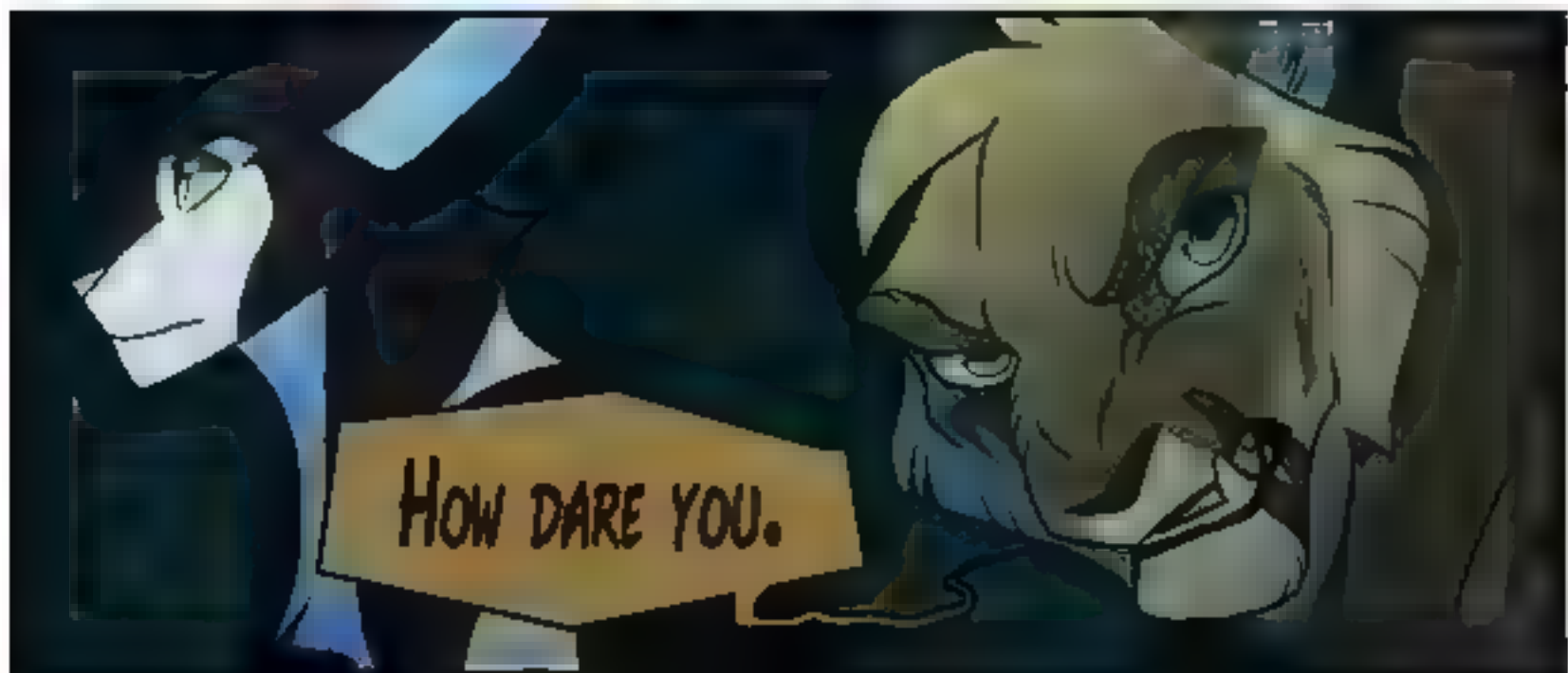
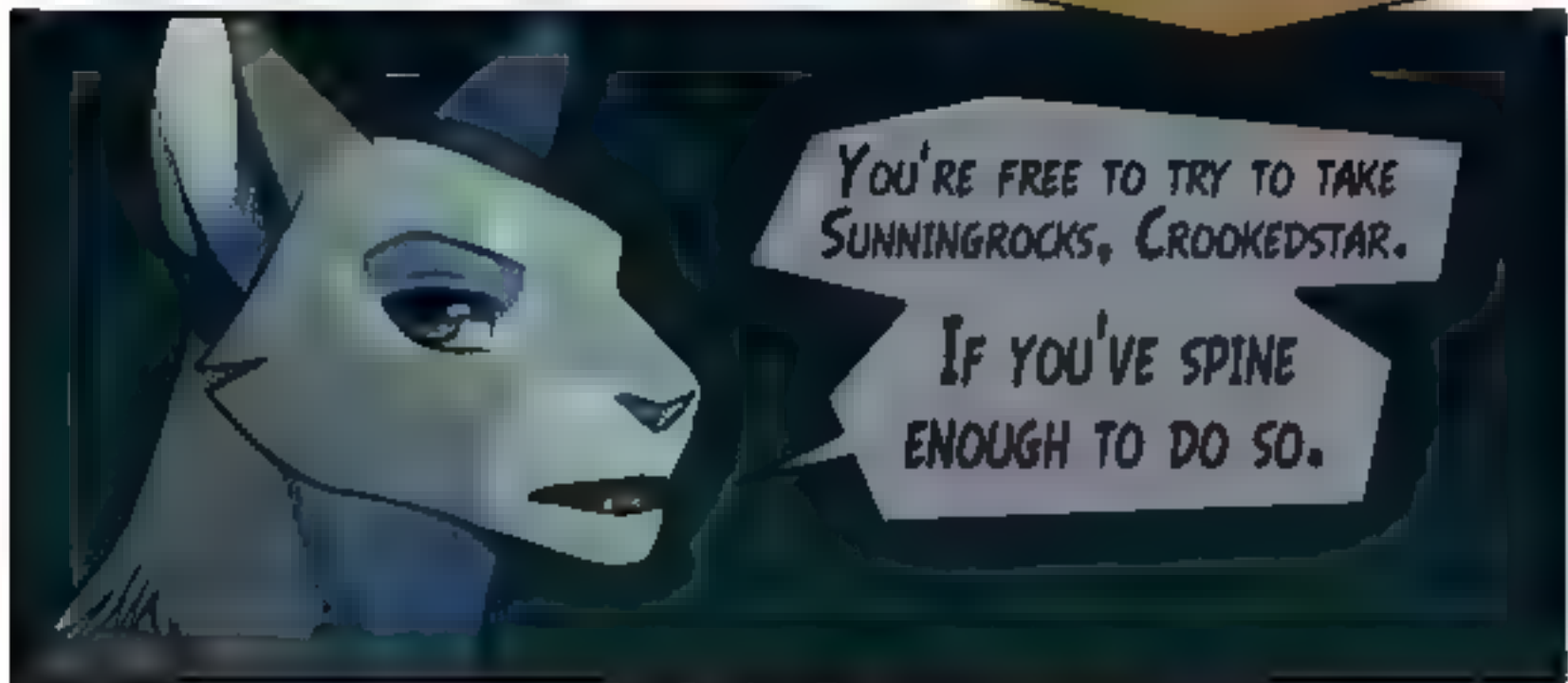


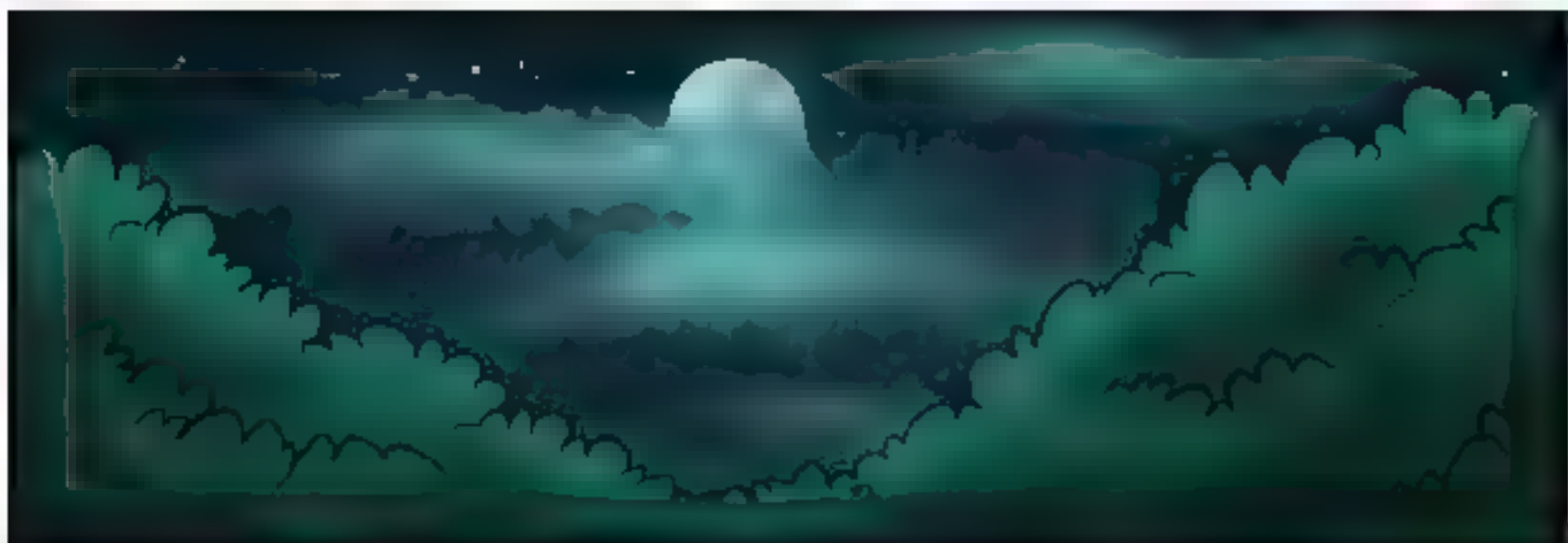


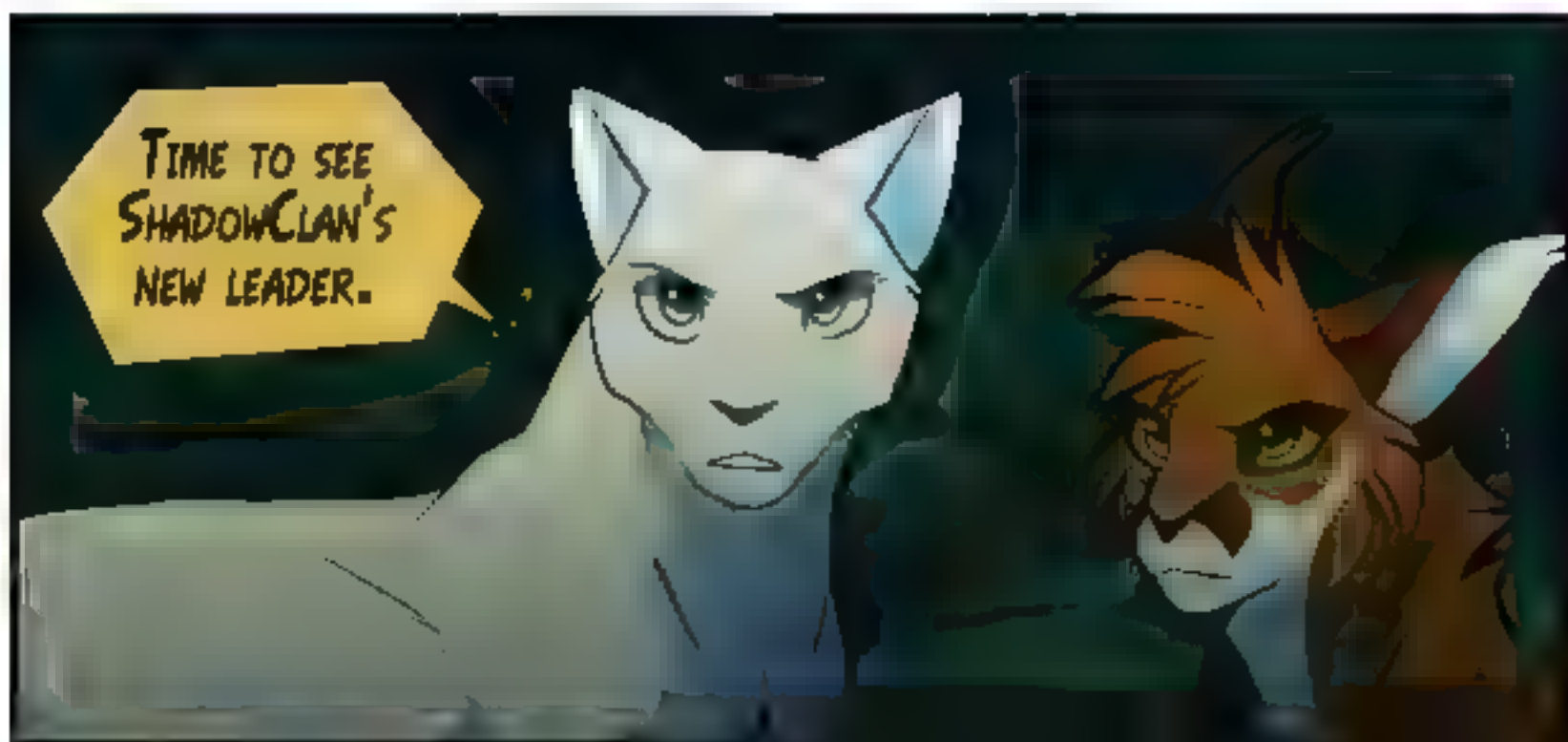
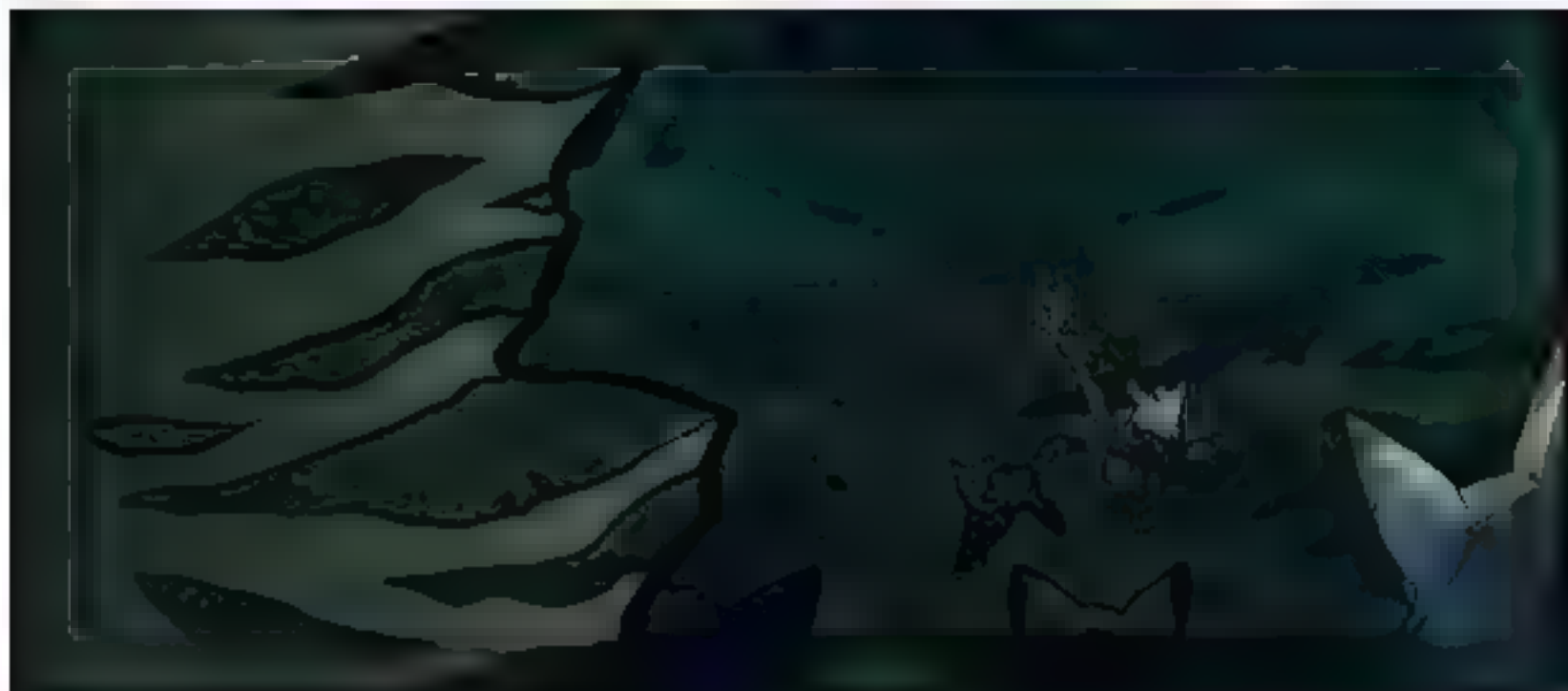
RIVERCLAN ARE DOING
WELL THIS LAST MOON, WE
NEARLY LOST AN APPRENTICE TO THE
SWELLING RIVER, BUT OAKHEART
RESCUED HIM.

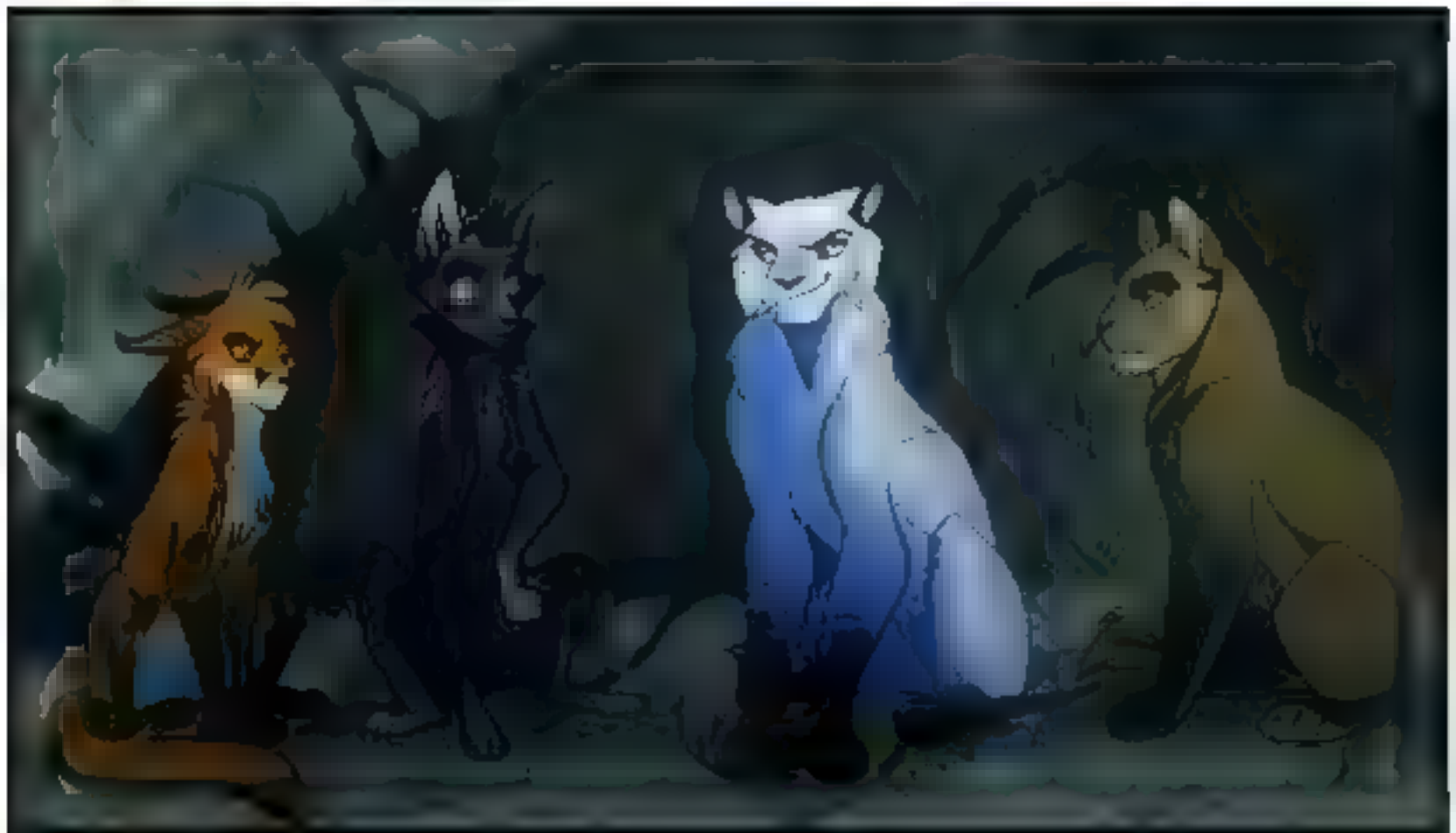
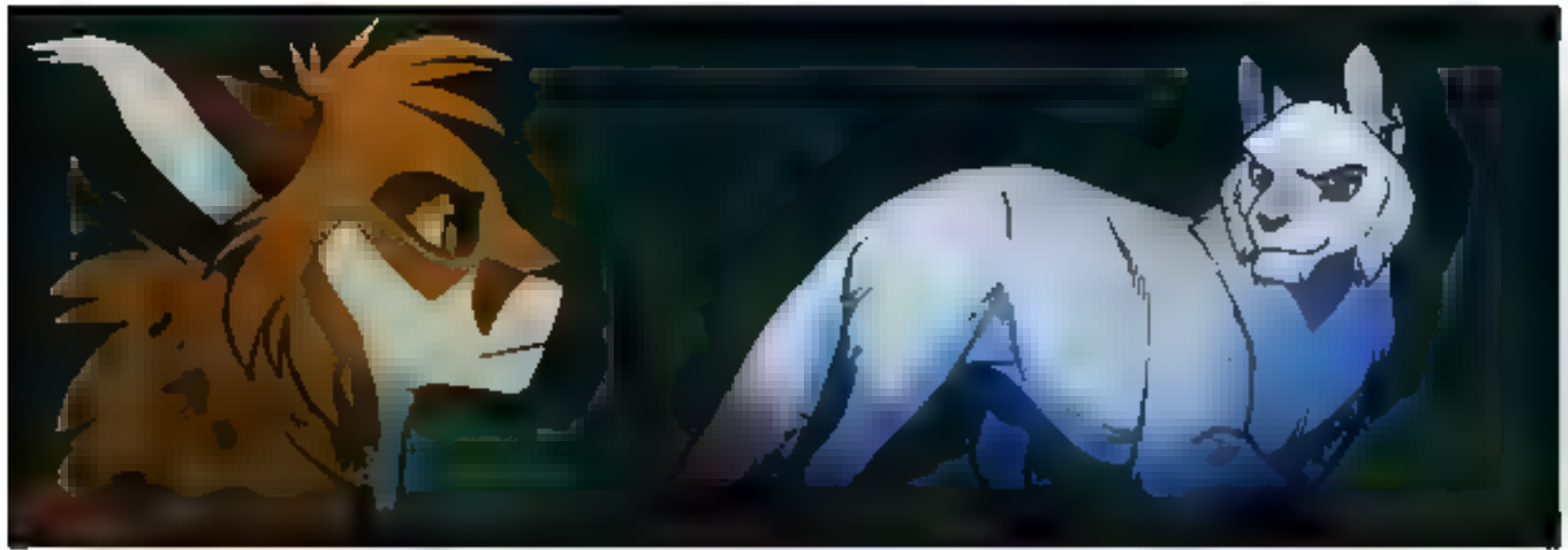
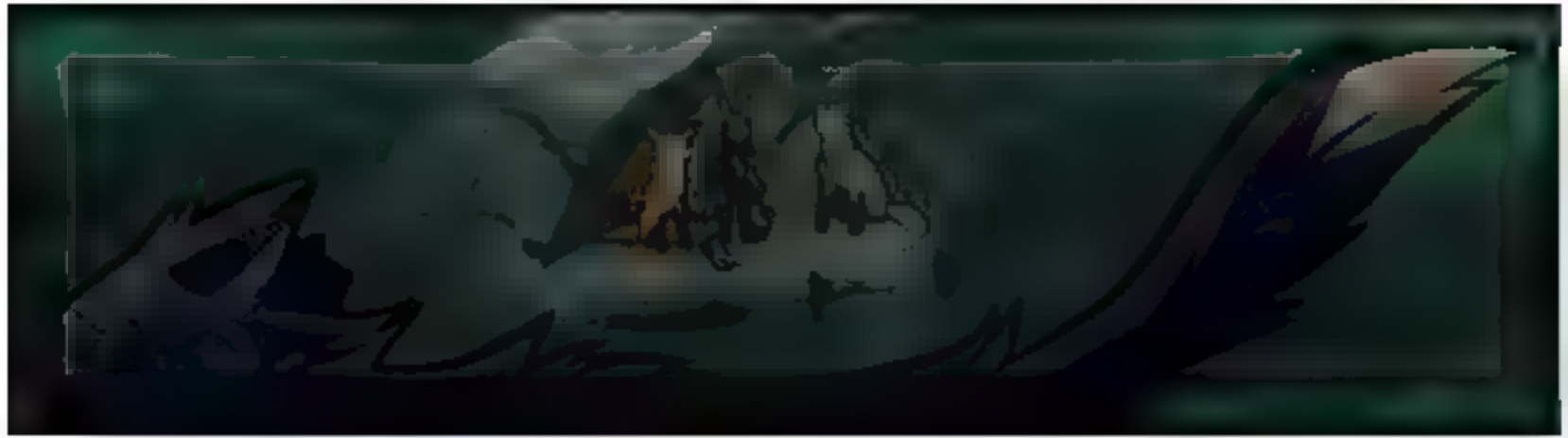


WE HAVE A NEW
APPRENTICE IN SILVERPAW
AS WELL.







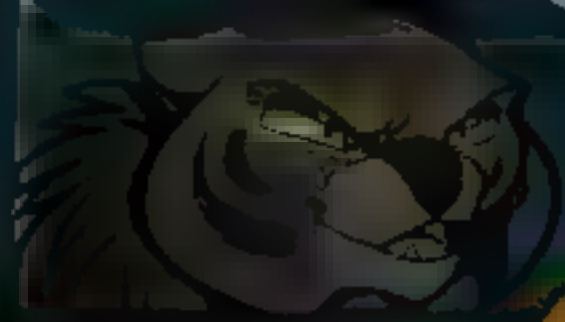




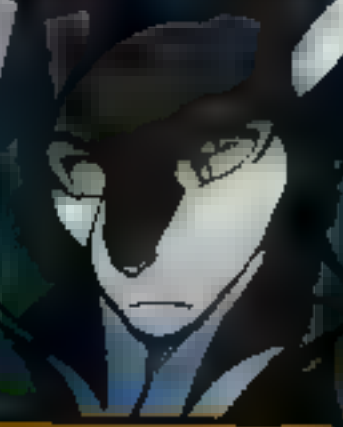
WHERE IS
RAGGEDSTAR?

MY FATHER WILL NOT
BE JOINING US.

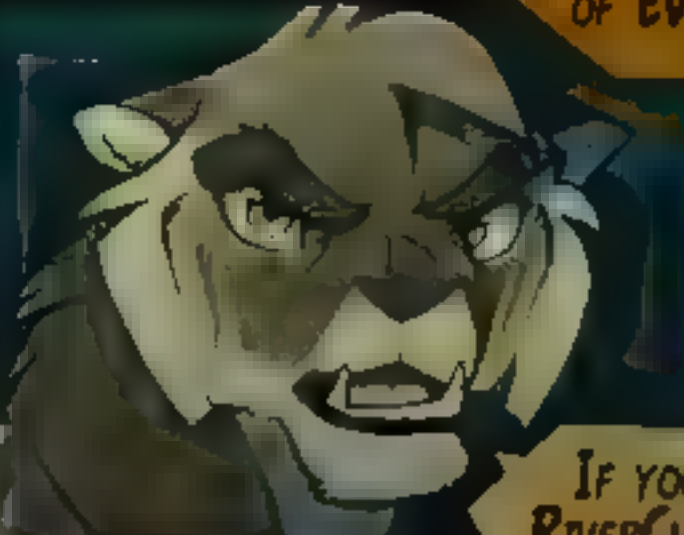
HE WAS KILLED IN A
PATROL THE LAST MOON, AND
I HAVE TAKEN HIS PLACE.



SO YOU'RE THE ONE WHO
TRIED TO STEAL MY TERRITORY.



I INTEND TO TAKE MORE
OF EVERY TERRITORY.




IF YOU TOUCH
RIVERCLAN LAND--



NOT YOU, FISHFACE.




THEN ALLOW ME.




IF YOU TRY TO CLAIM EVEN A
WHISKER OF TERRITORY,

YOU WILL BE TREATED LIKE
THE ROGUES YOU CLEARLY
WANT TO BE.



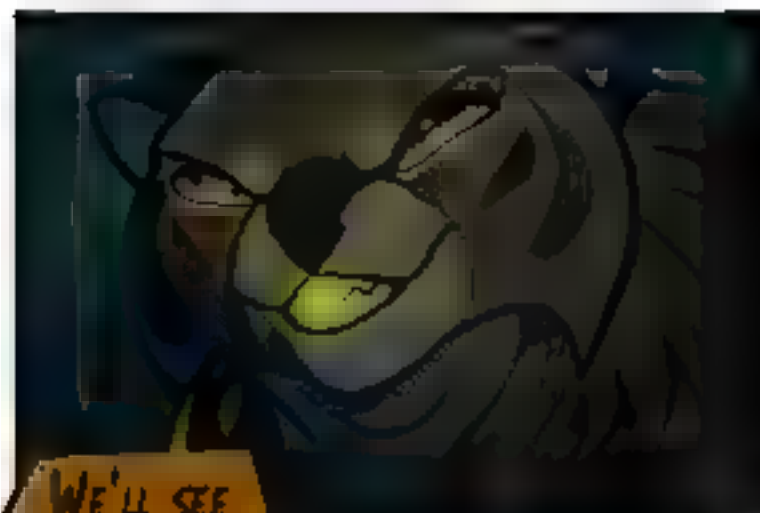
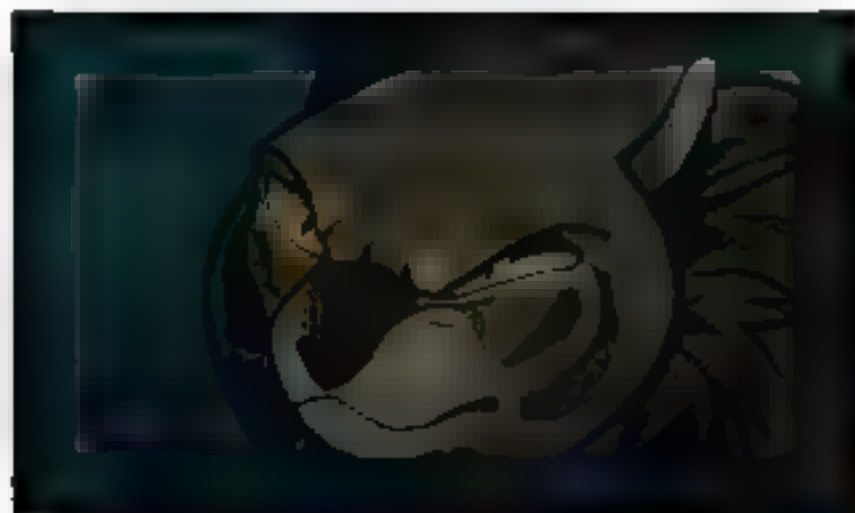
YOU WILL IMPRESS
NO ONE WITH YOUR
EMPTY BULLYING.



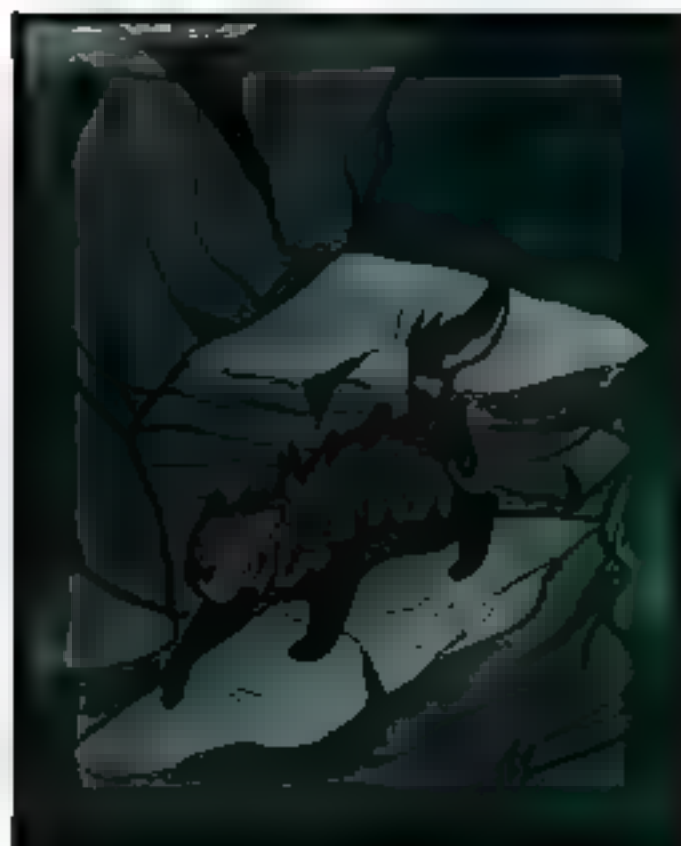
SO YOU
NEEDN'T BOTHER.




THIS IS A BATTLE
YOU CANNOT WIN.



WE'LL SEE
ABOUT THAT.



BEST KEEP AN
EYE ON THEM.

A fox with orange fur and dark spots is on the left, looking towards the right. A bat-like creature with dark fur and large ears is on the right, looking back at the fox. The background is a dark, rocky cave.


WE'D BEST LEAVE
AS WELL. IT WAS GOOD
TO SEE YOU, REDTAIL.

AND YOU!

REDTAIL!

A bat-like creature is on the left, looking towards the right. A fox with orange fur and dark spots is on the right, looking back at the bat-like creature. The background is a dark, rocky cave.

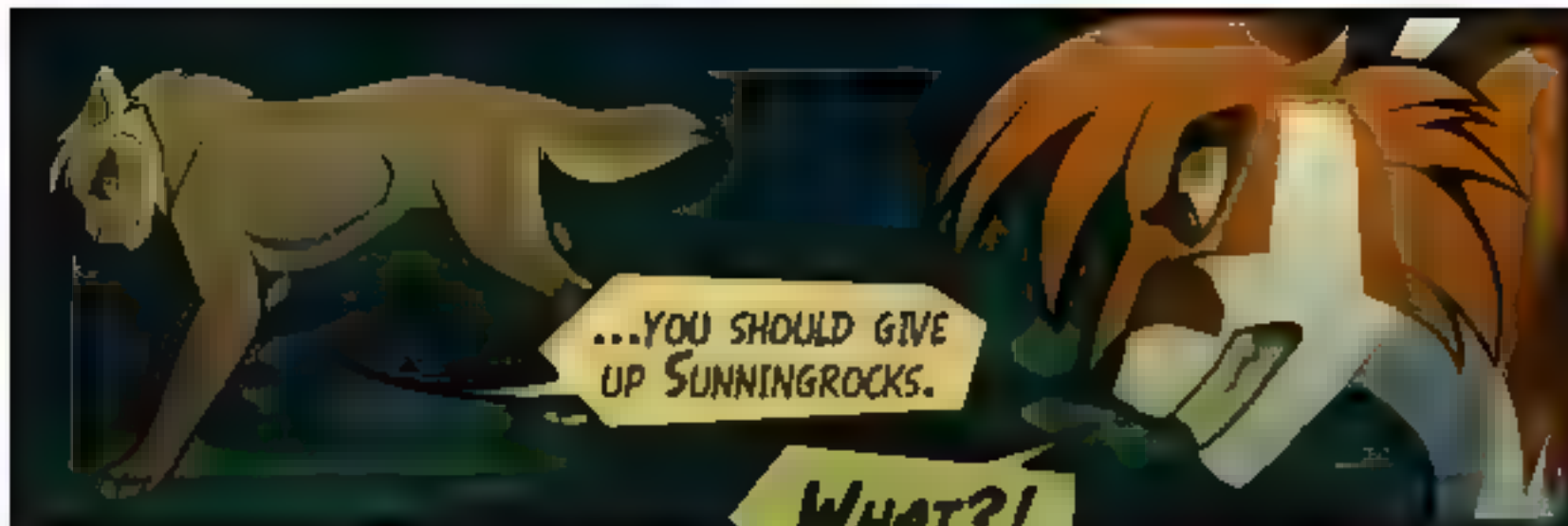
HEY.

A close-up of a bat-like creature's face. It has large, expressive eyes and a slightly open mouth, looking towards the right.

I NEED TO
TALK TO YOU.

A close-up of a fox's face. It has orange fur with dark spots and large, expressive eyes, looking towards the left.

WHAT?



...YOU SHOULD GIVE
UP SUNNINGROCKS.

WHAT?!



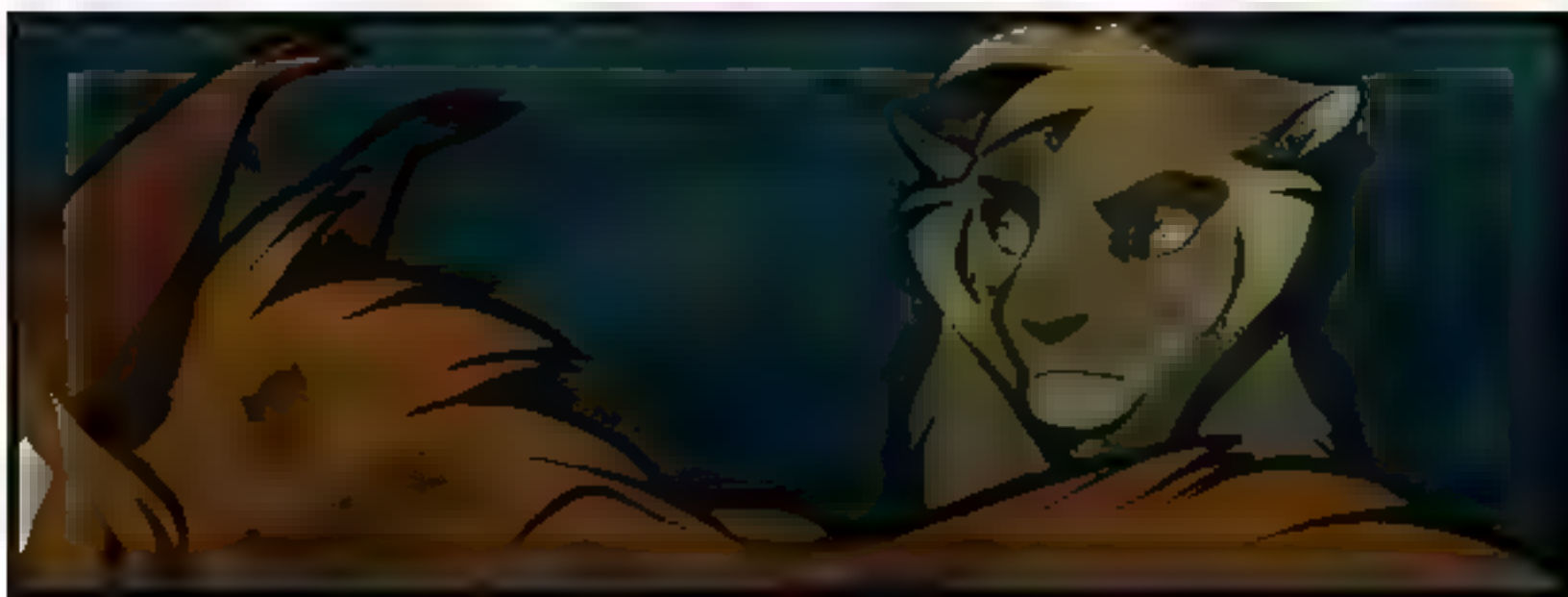
CROOKEDSTAR
WANTS IT BACK.

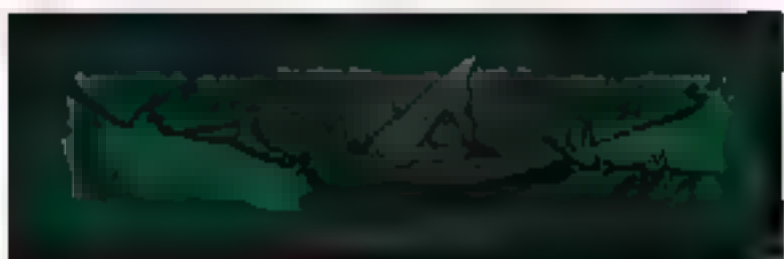
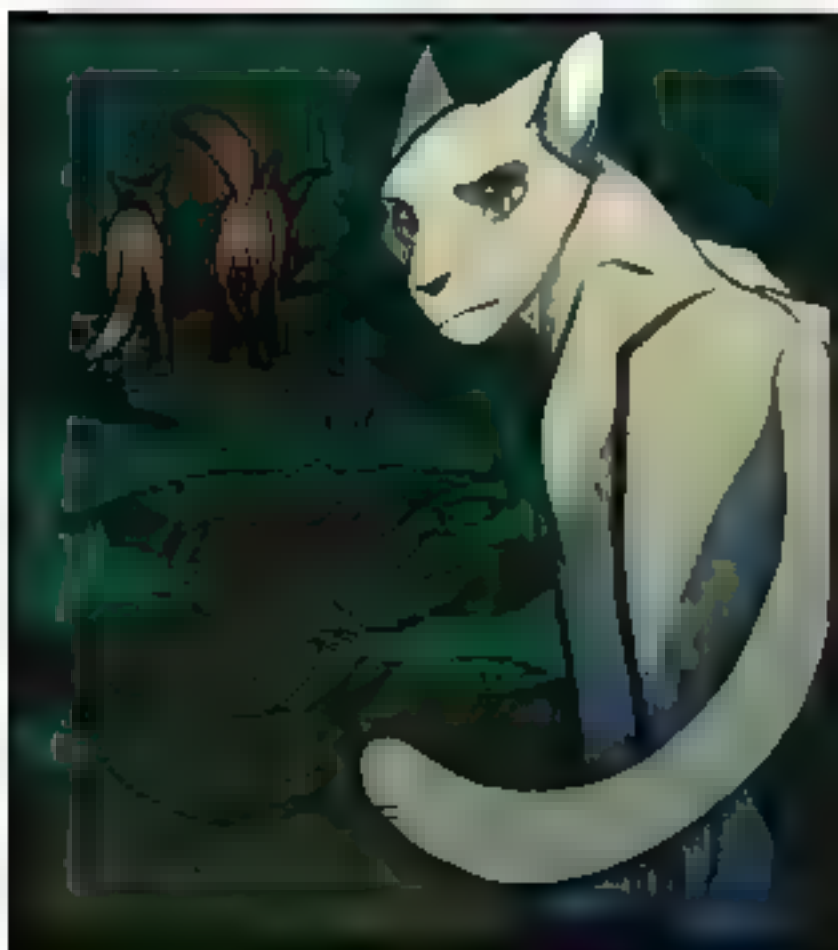
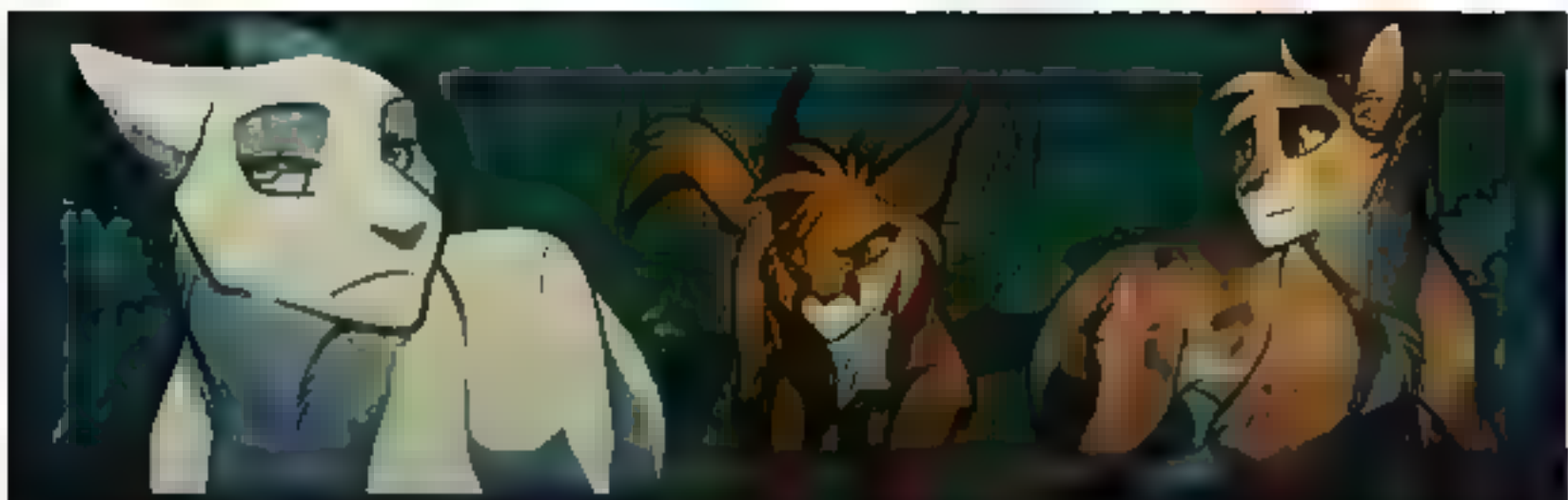
...IT'D SAVE A LOT
OF BLOOD IF YOU--



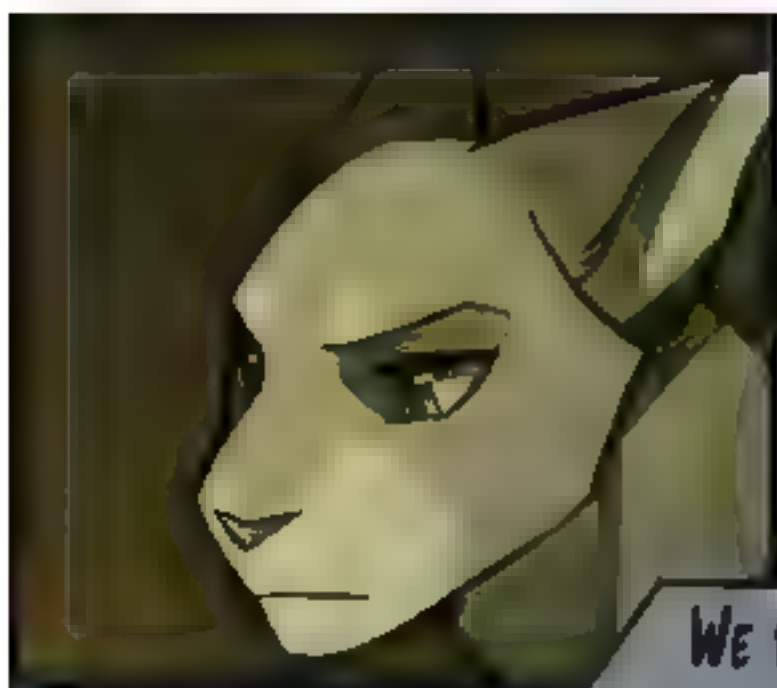
HOW DARE YOU!

REDTAIL, PLEASE--





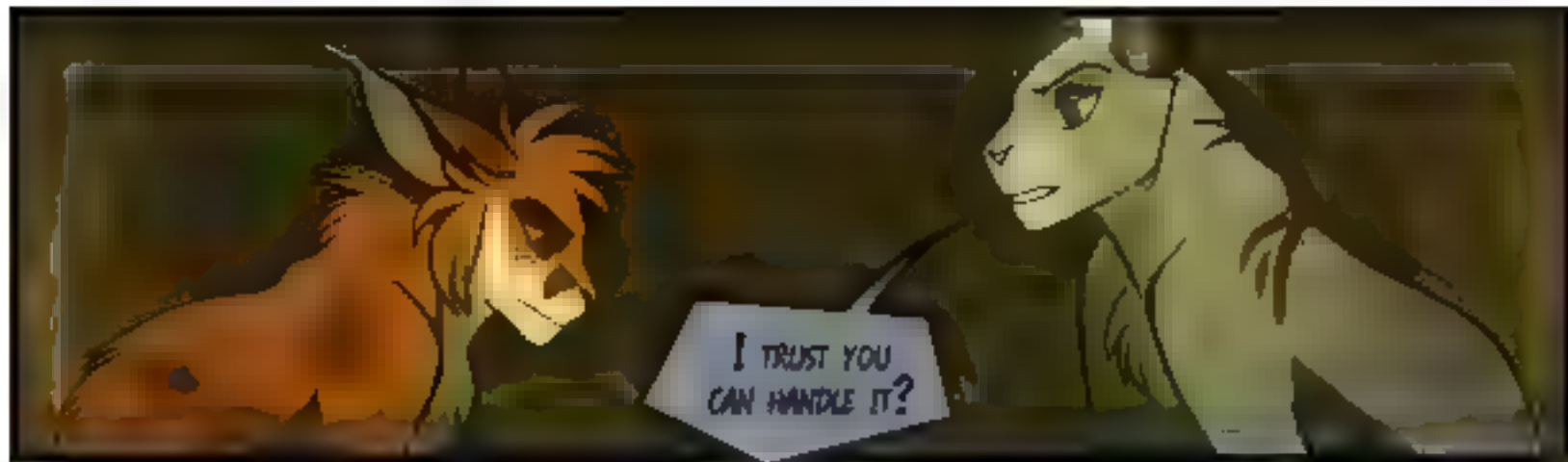




WE WILL BE
READY FOR THEM.



WE WILL DEAL WITH
THEM JUST AS WE DEALT
WITH SHADOWCLAN.





THEY'RE YOUR FAMILY--

STOP IT.

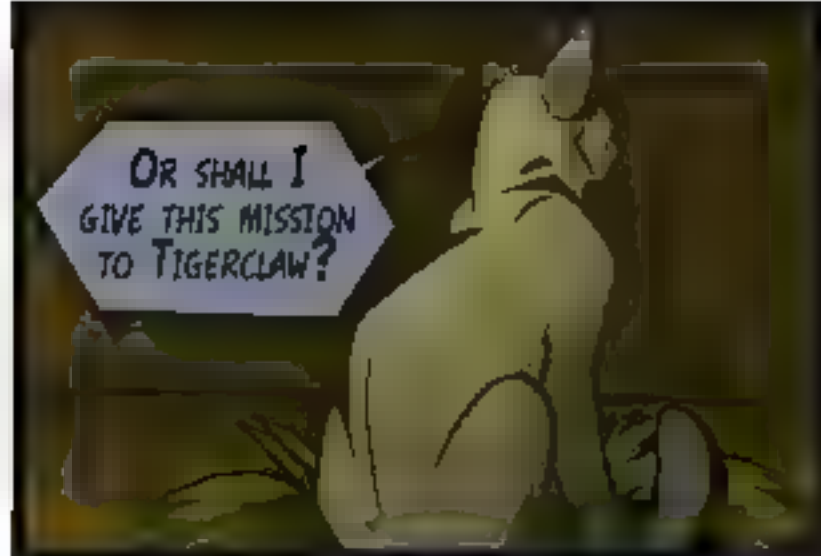
I HARDLY SEE
HOW THIS IS ANY OF
YOUR BUSINESS.

IF YOU CANNOT LEAD
THIS PARTY, I WILL FIND
SOMEONE WHO CAN.



TO THINK MY DEPUTY IS
AFRAID TO FIGHT.

PATHETIC!




OR SHALL I
GIVE THIS MISSION
TO TIGERCLAW?



BLUESTAR, I...

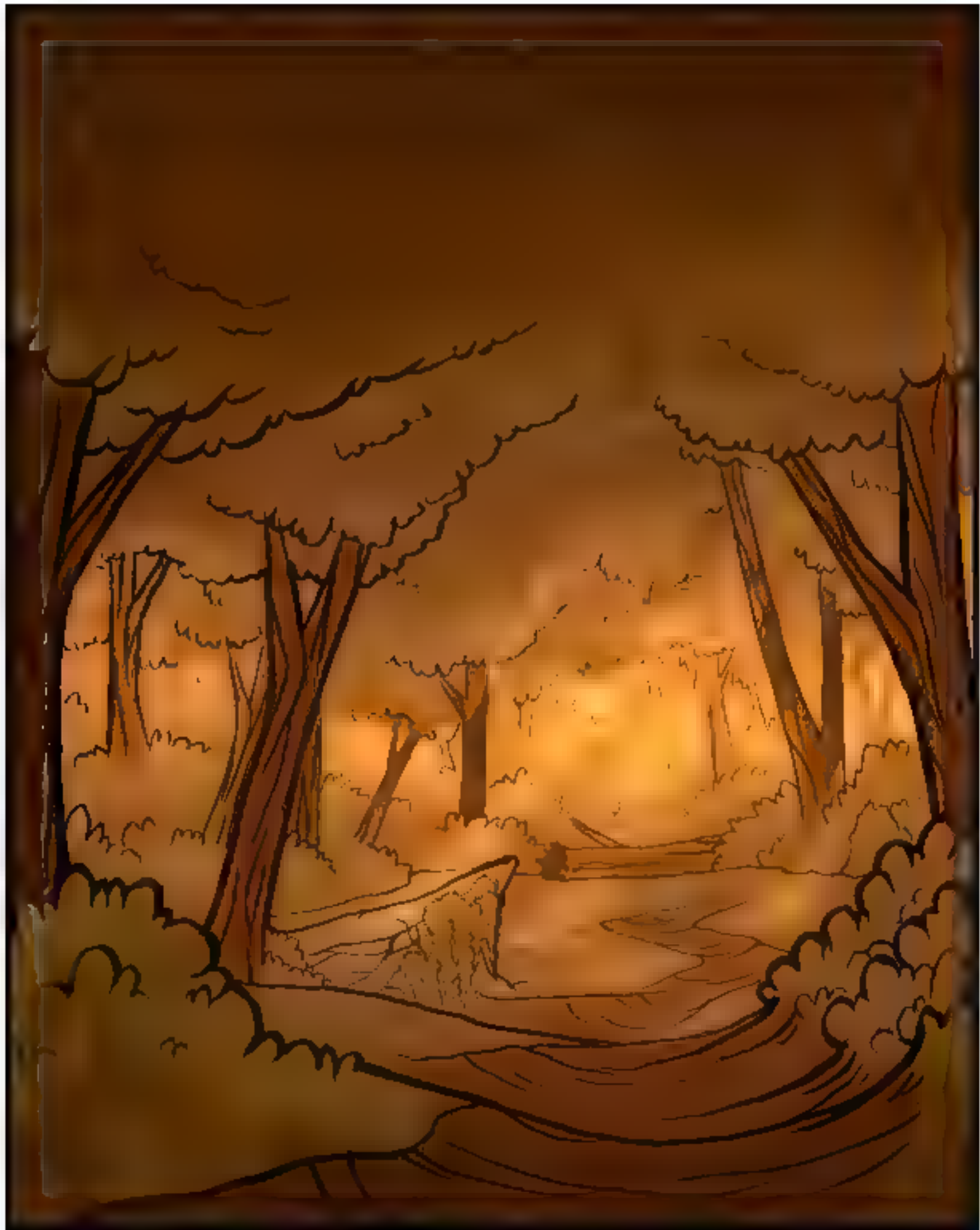


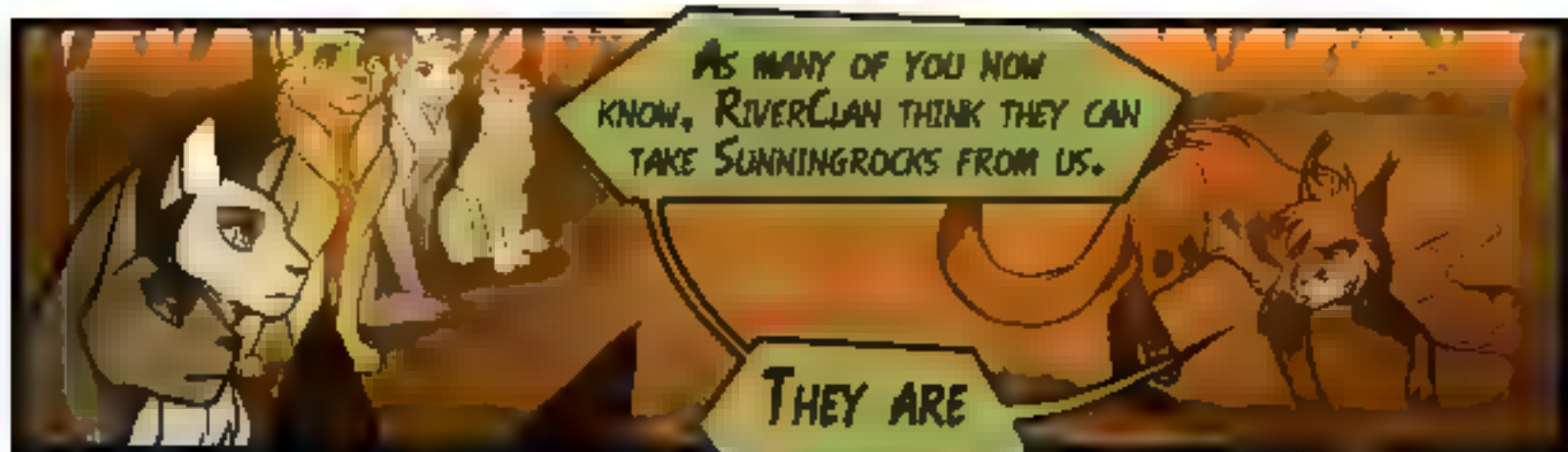
GO, REDTAIL.



TAKE TIGERCLAW WITH
YOU. AT LEAST I CAN TRUST
HIM TO GET THE JOB DONE.







THEY ARE
WRONG.

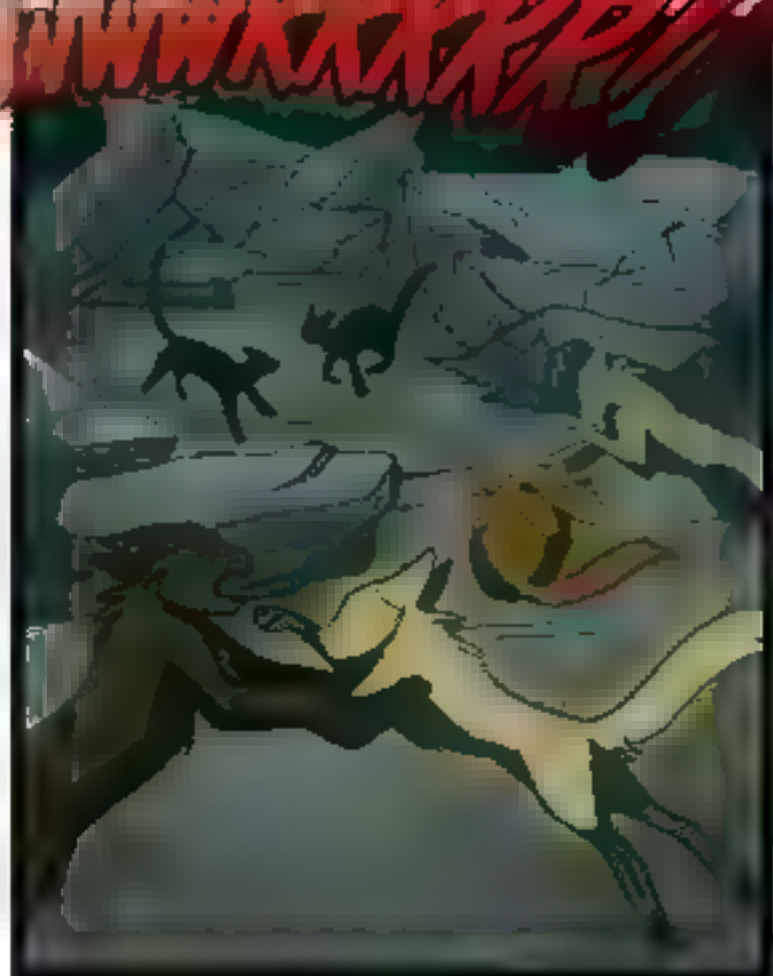
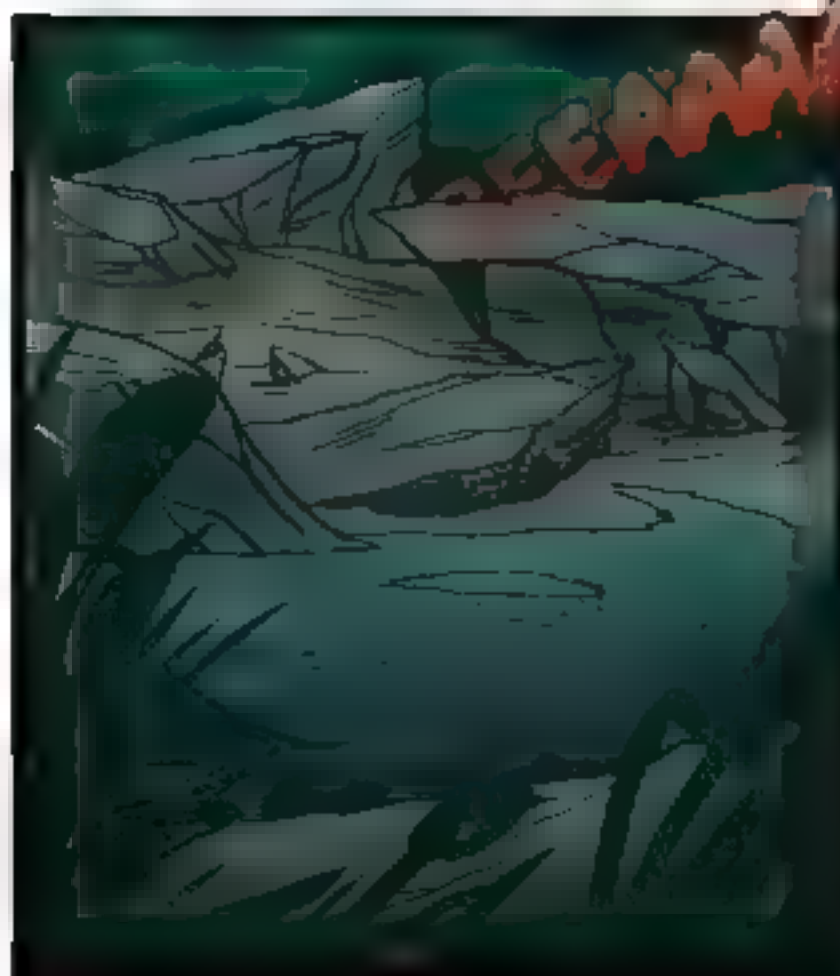
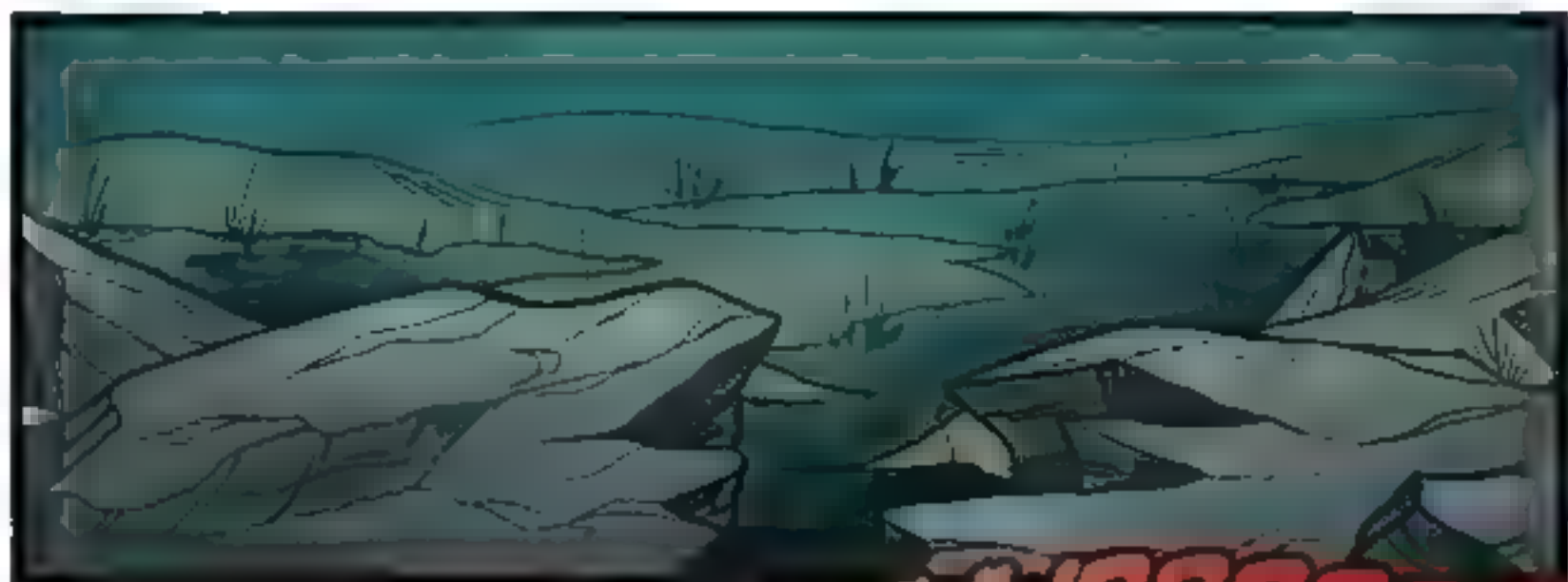
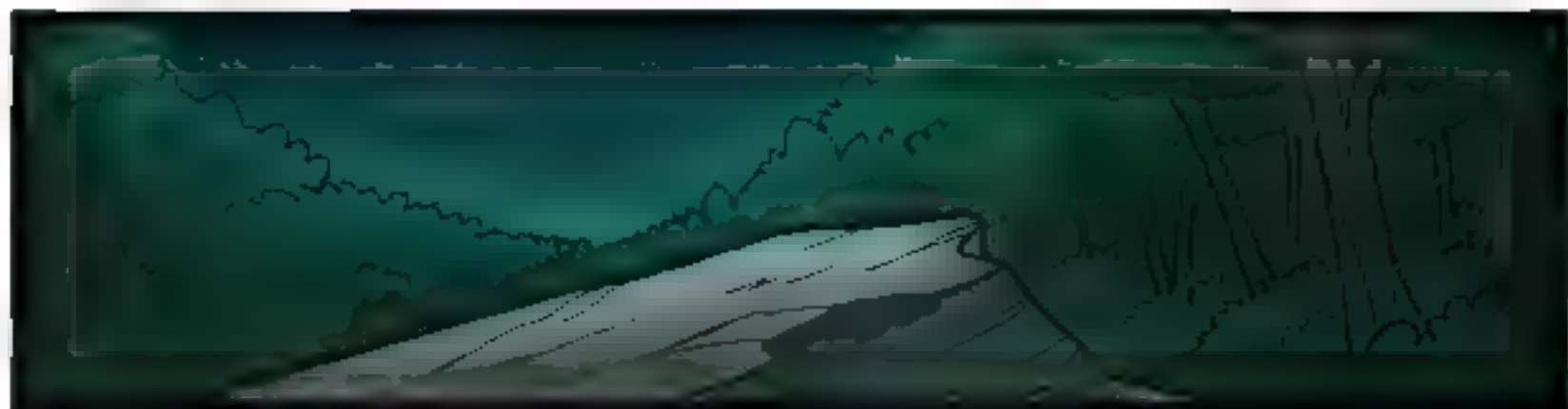


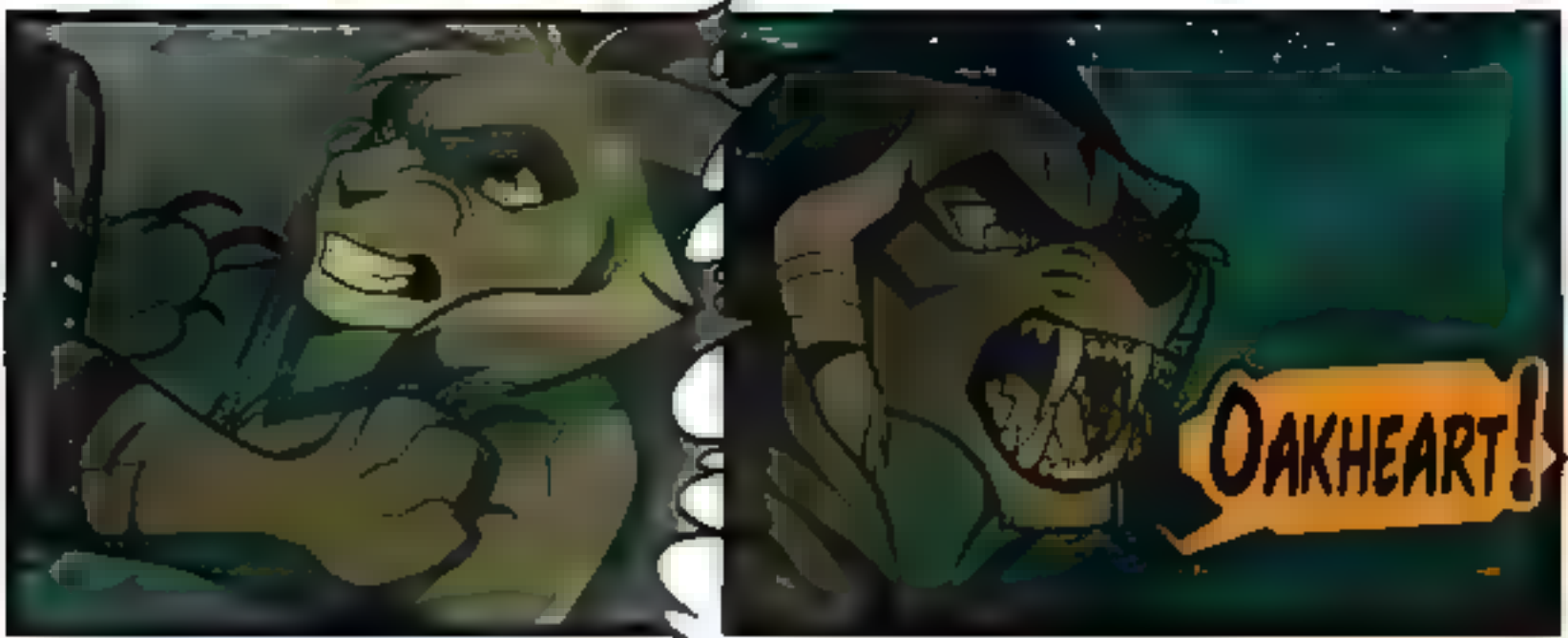
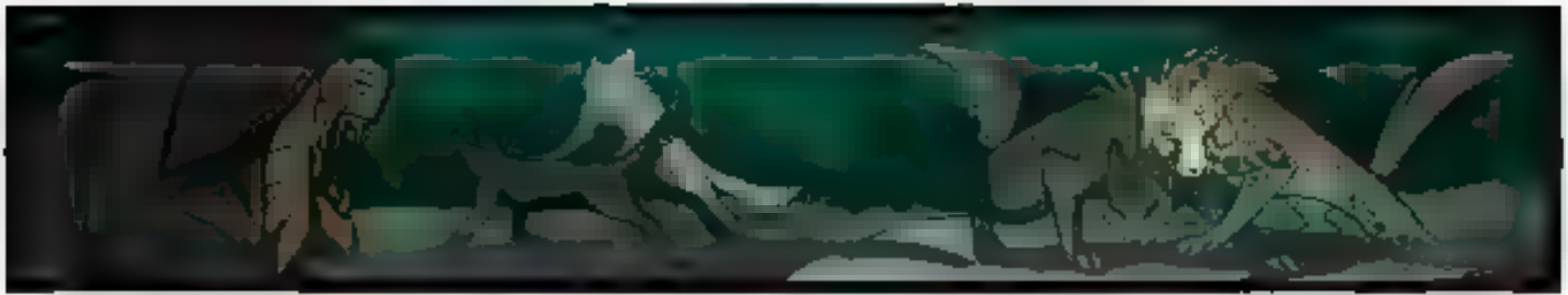
TIGERCLAW, GATHER
AS MANY WARRIORS AS YOU
THINK WE NEED.



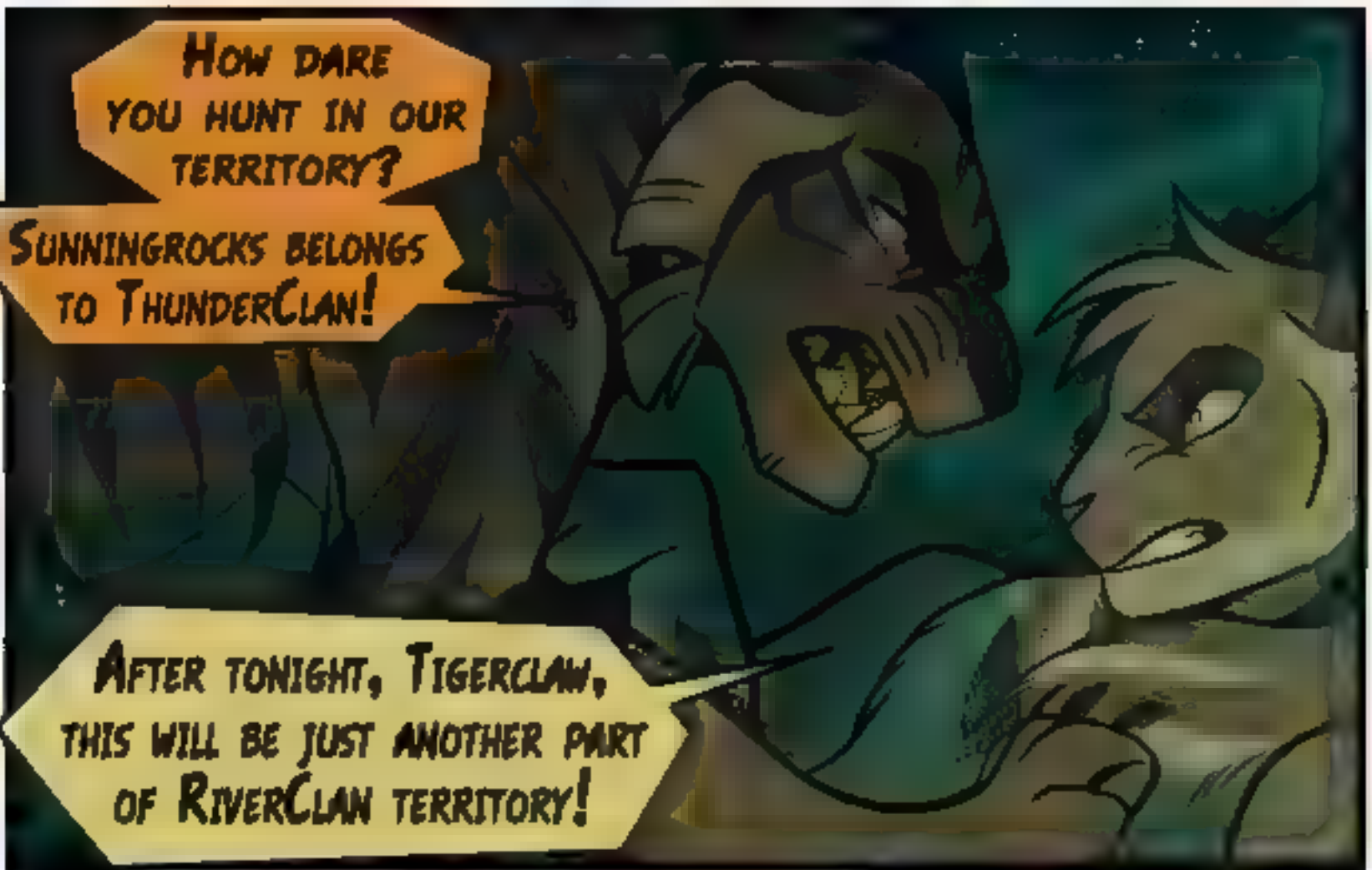
WHITESTORM, I TRUST
YOU TO GUARD THE CAMP.







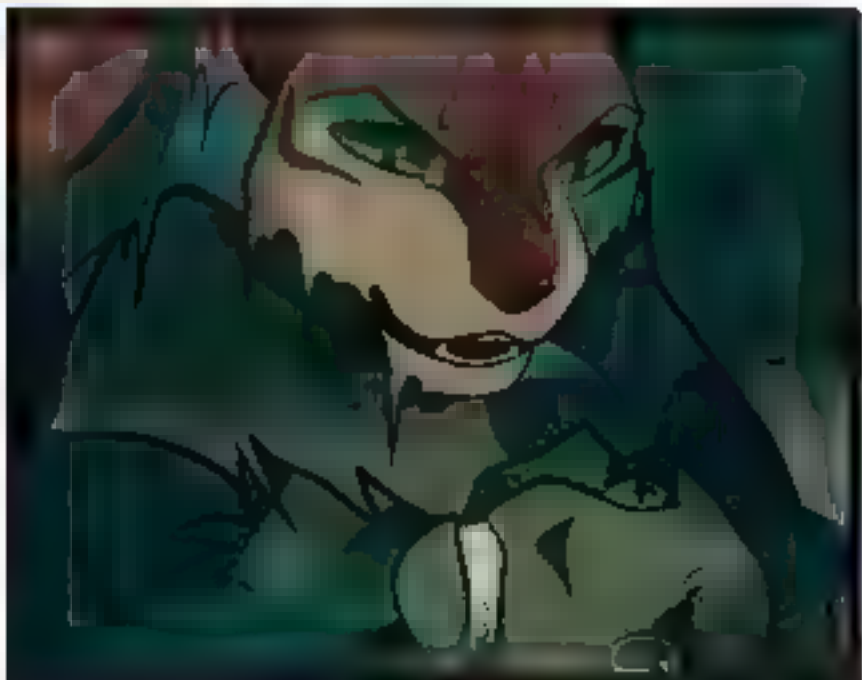
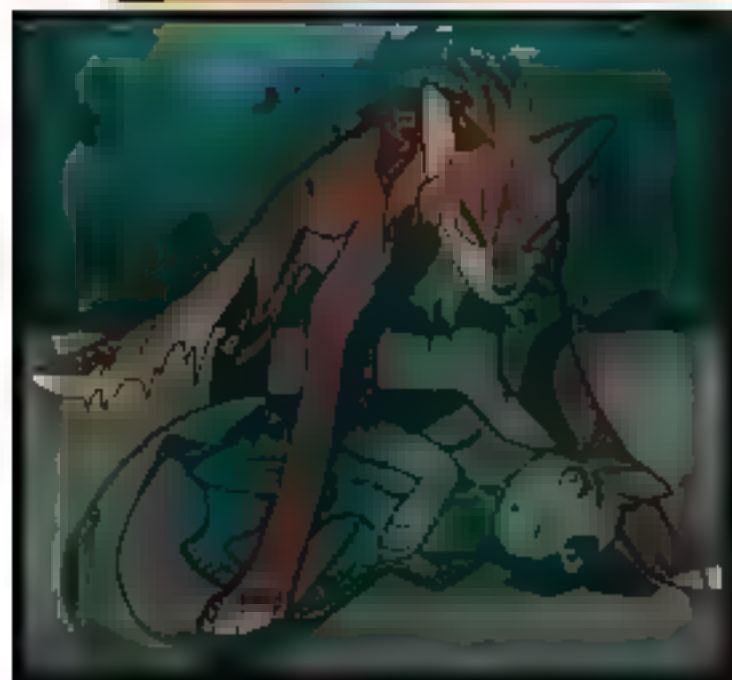
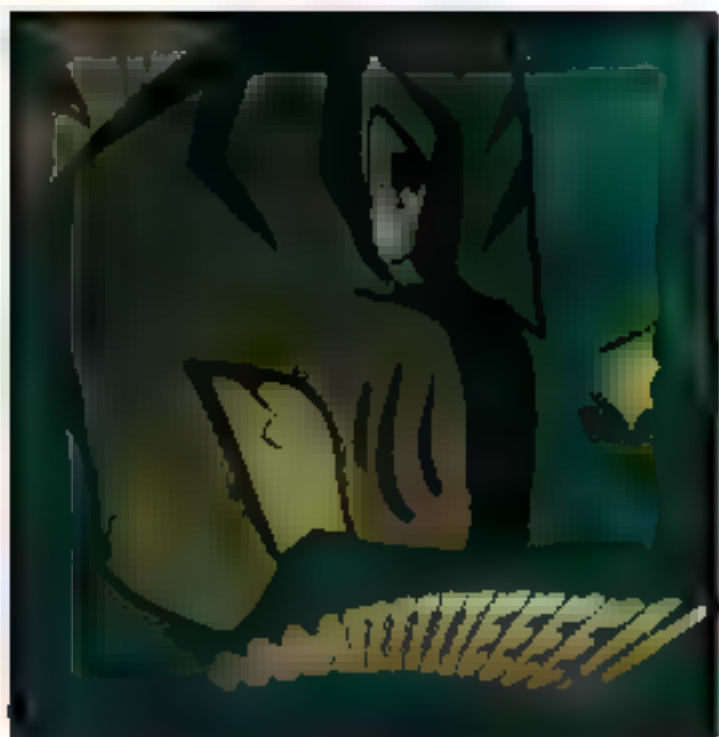
OAKHEART!

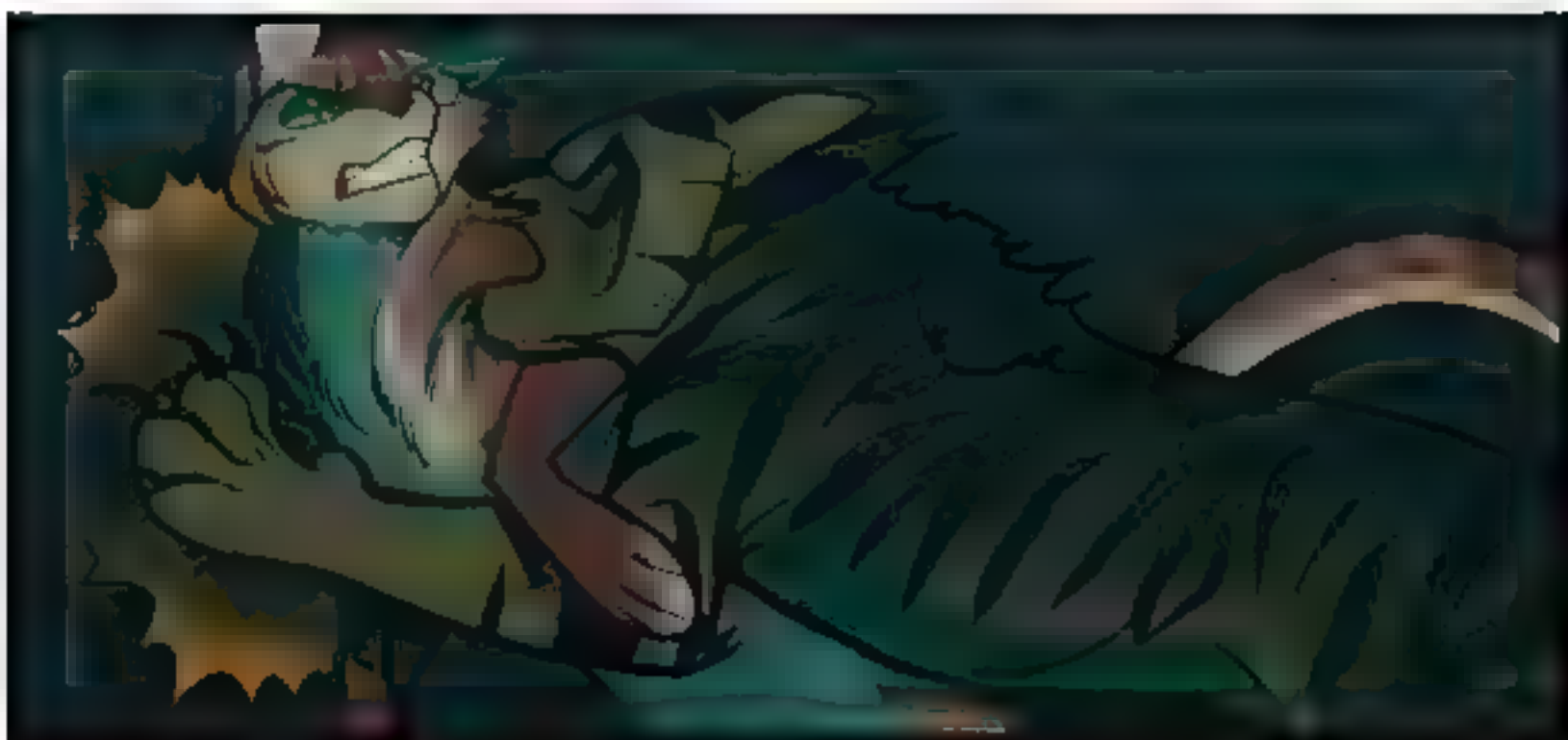
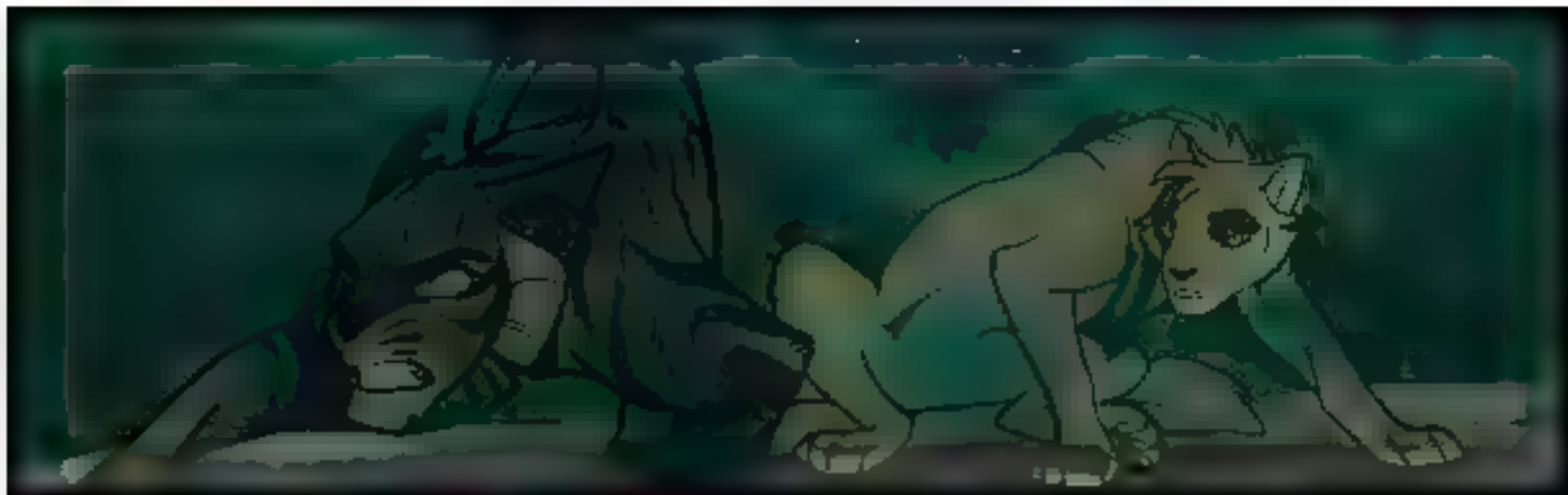


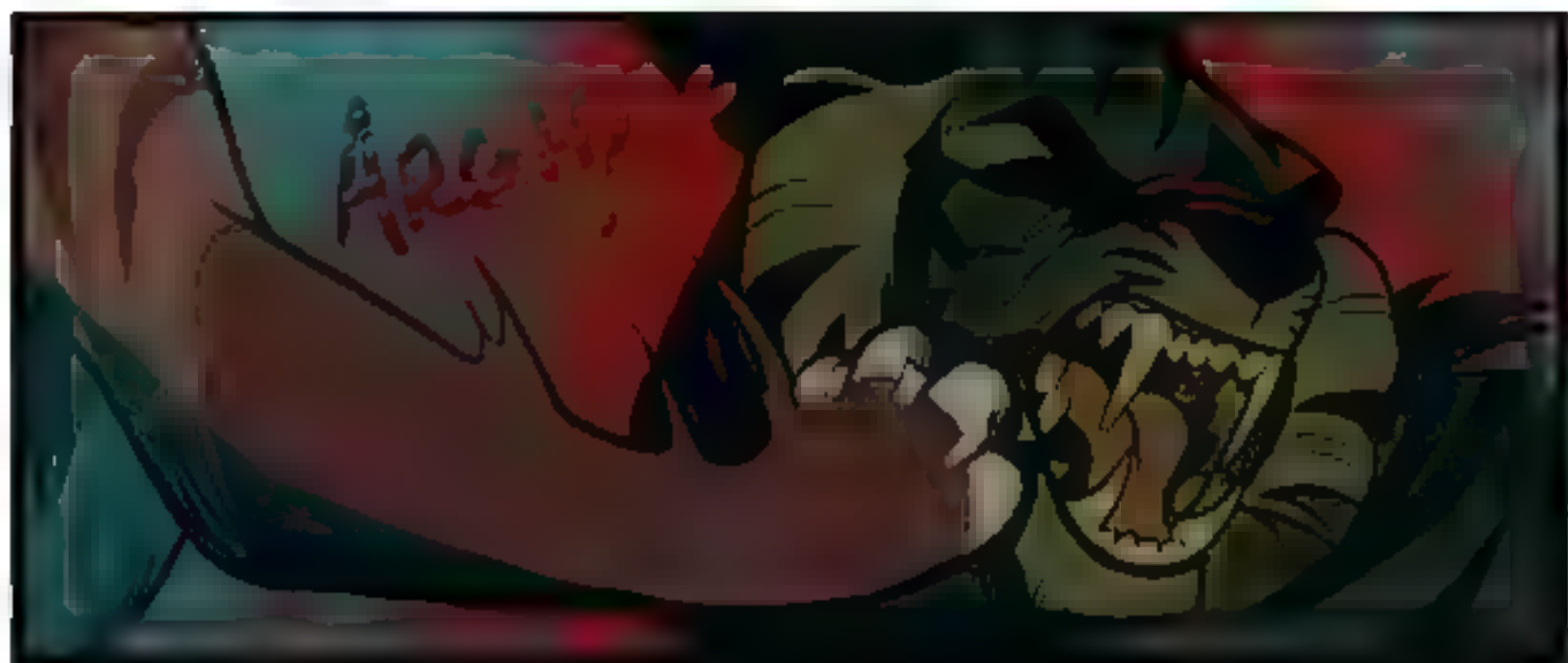
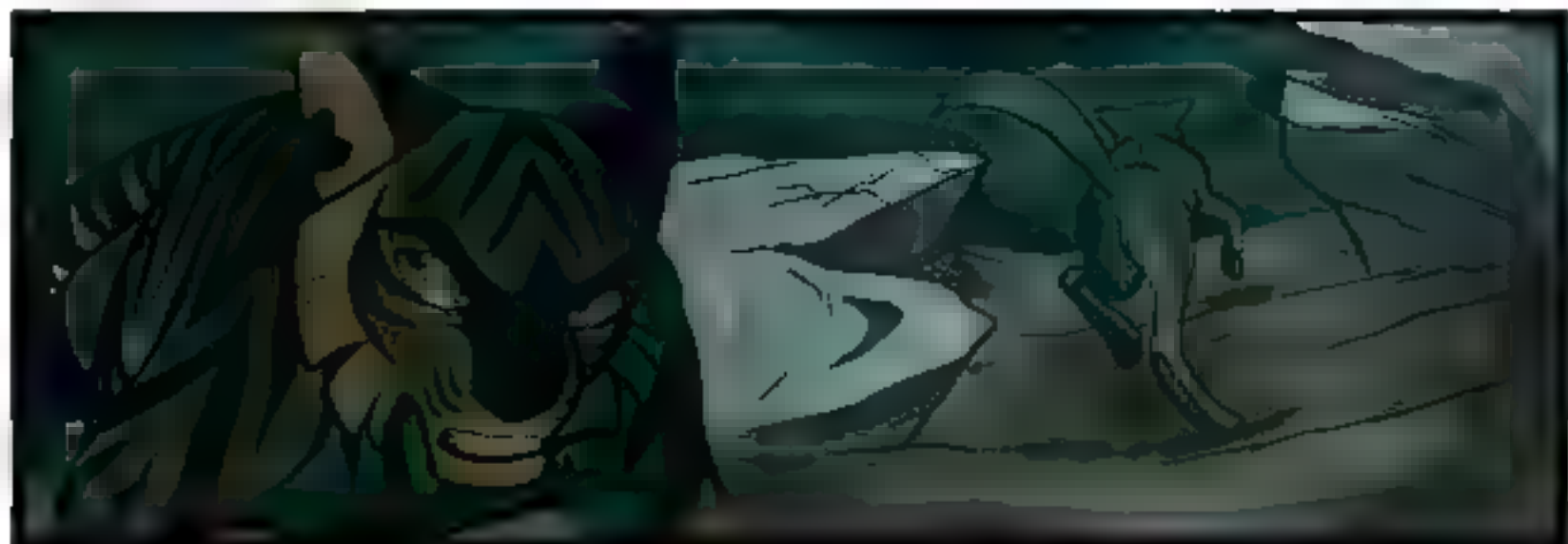
**HOW DARE
YOU HUNT IN OUR
TERRITORY?**

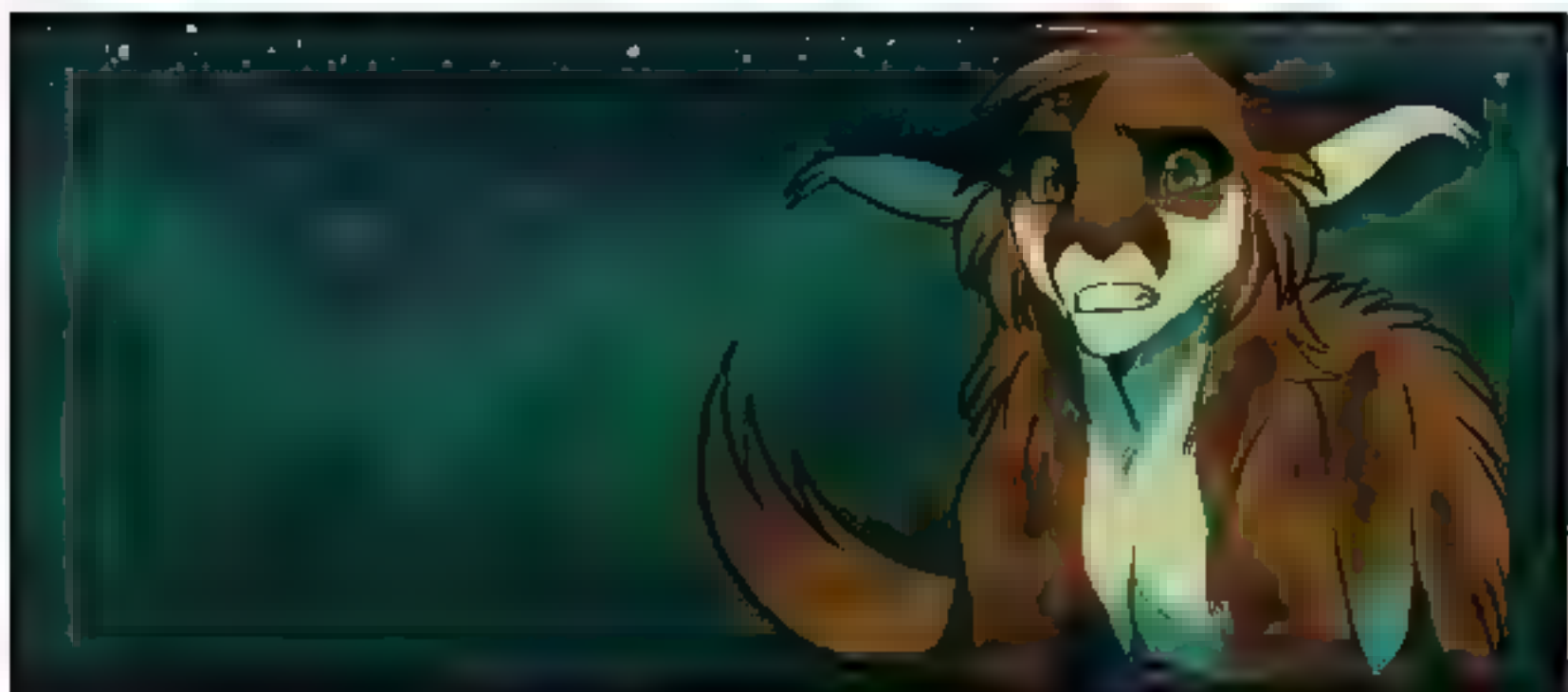
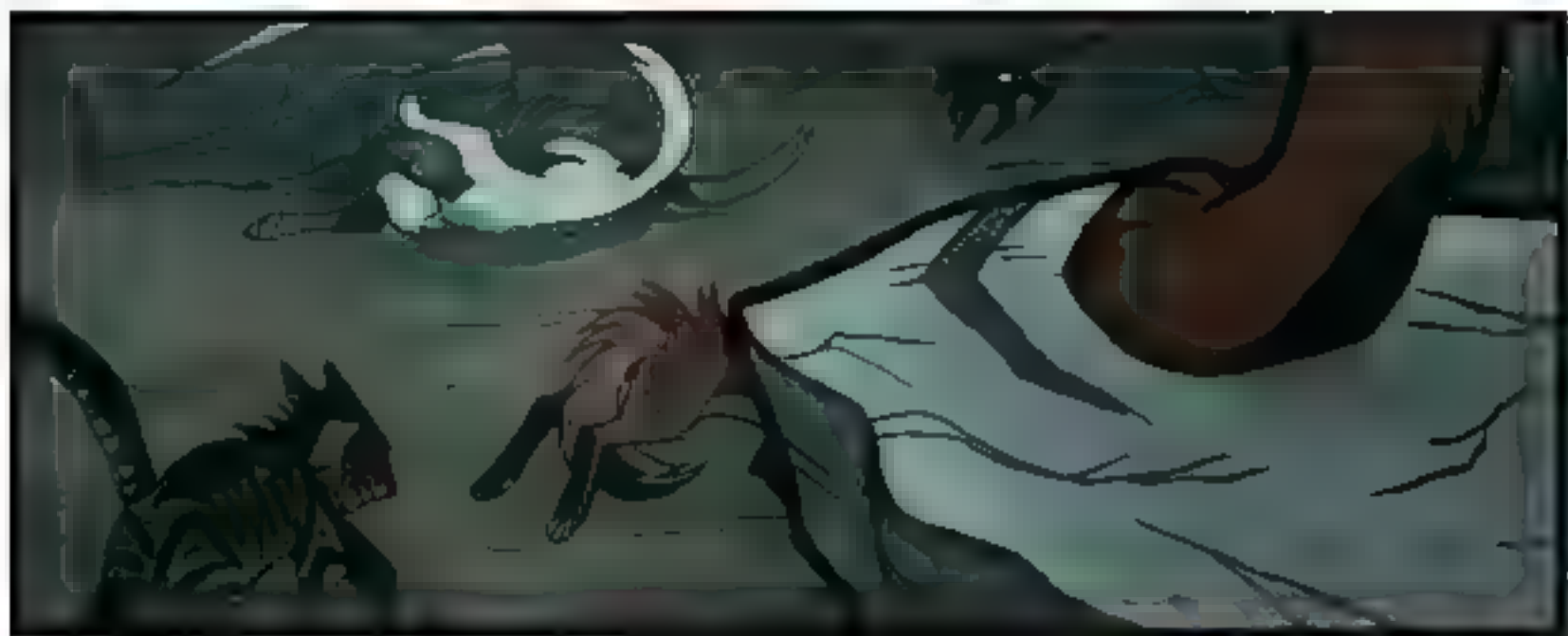
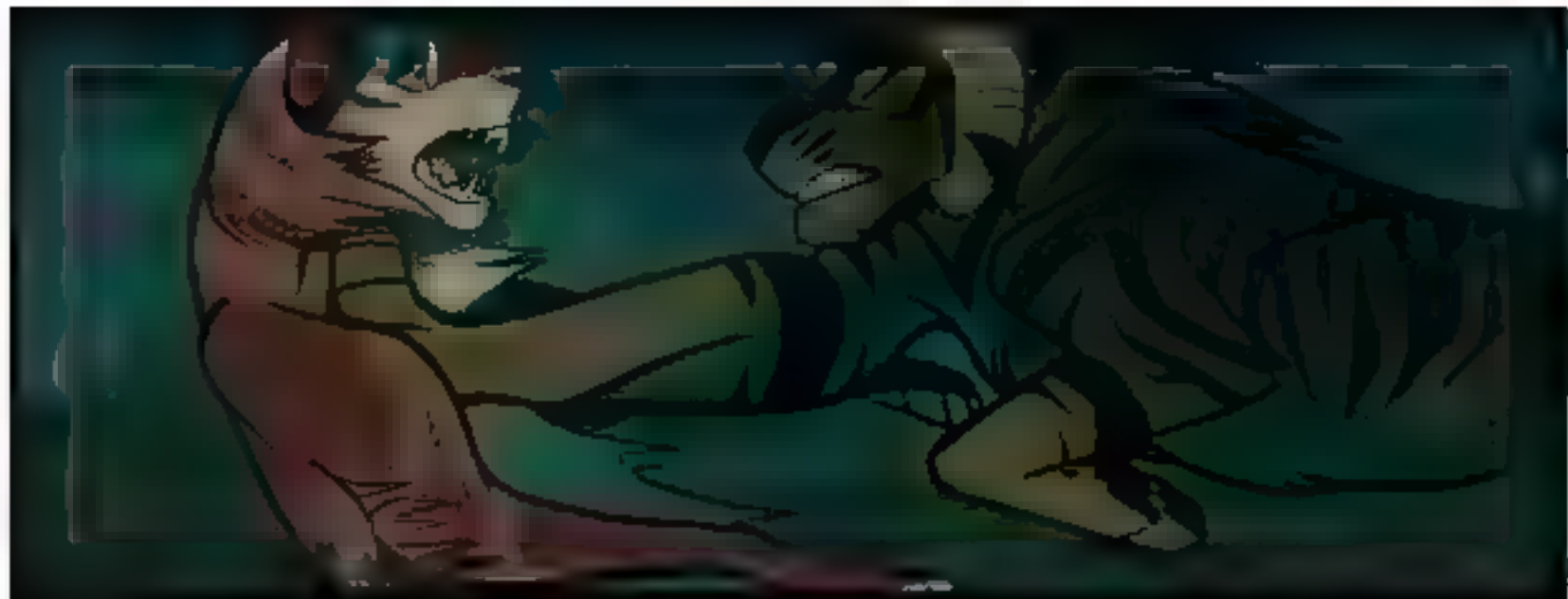
**SUNNINGROCKS BELONGS
TO THUNDERCLAN!**

**AFTER TONIGHT, TIGERCLAW,
THIS WILL BE JUST ANOTHER PART
OF RIVERCLAN TERRITORY!**









TIGERCLAW!



THIS IS USELESS!

**THERE ARE TOO
MANY RIVERCLAN
WARRIORS!**

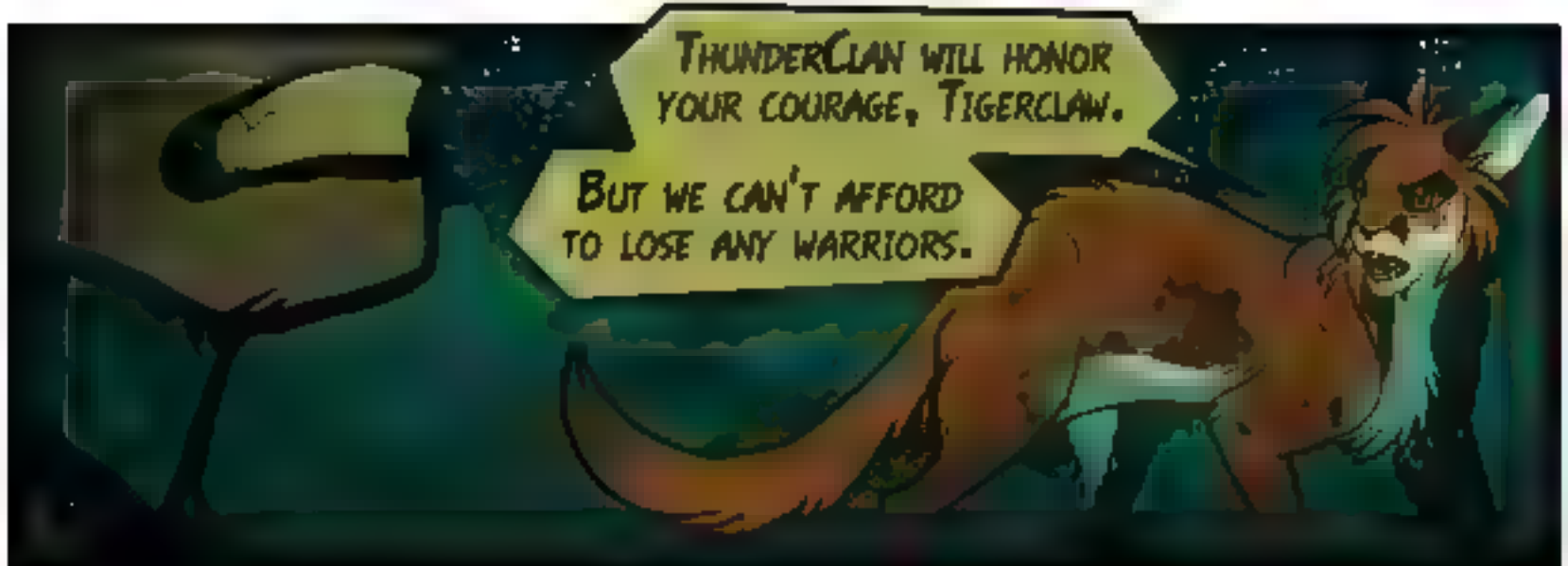


NO, REDTAIL.

**THUNDERCLAN WILL
NEVER BEATEN!**

**THIS IS OUR
TERRITORY!**





THUNDERCLAN WILL HONOR
YOUR COURAGE, TIGERCLAW.

BUT WE CAN'T AFFORD
TO LOSE ANY WARRIORS.



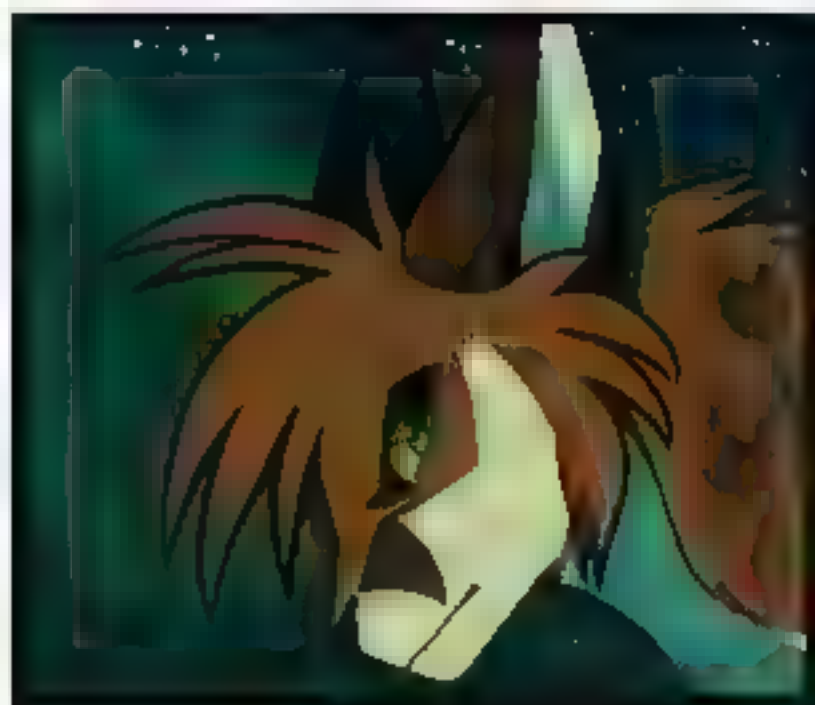
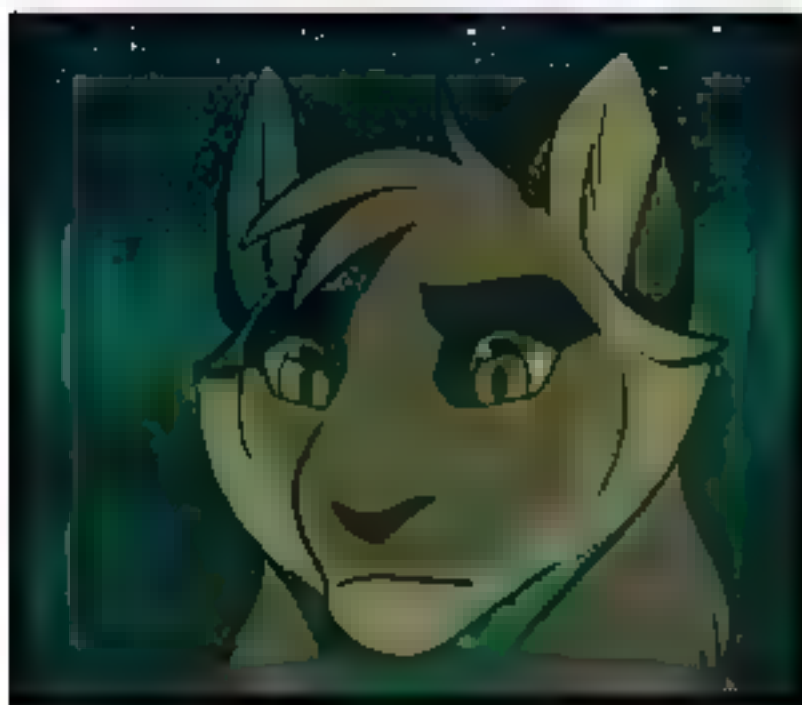
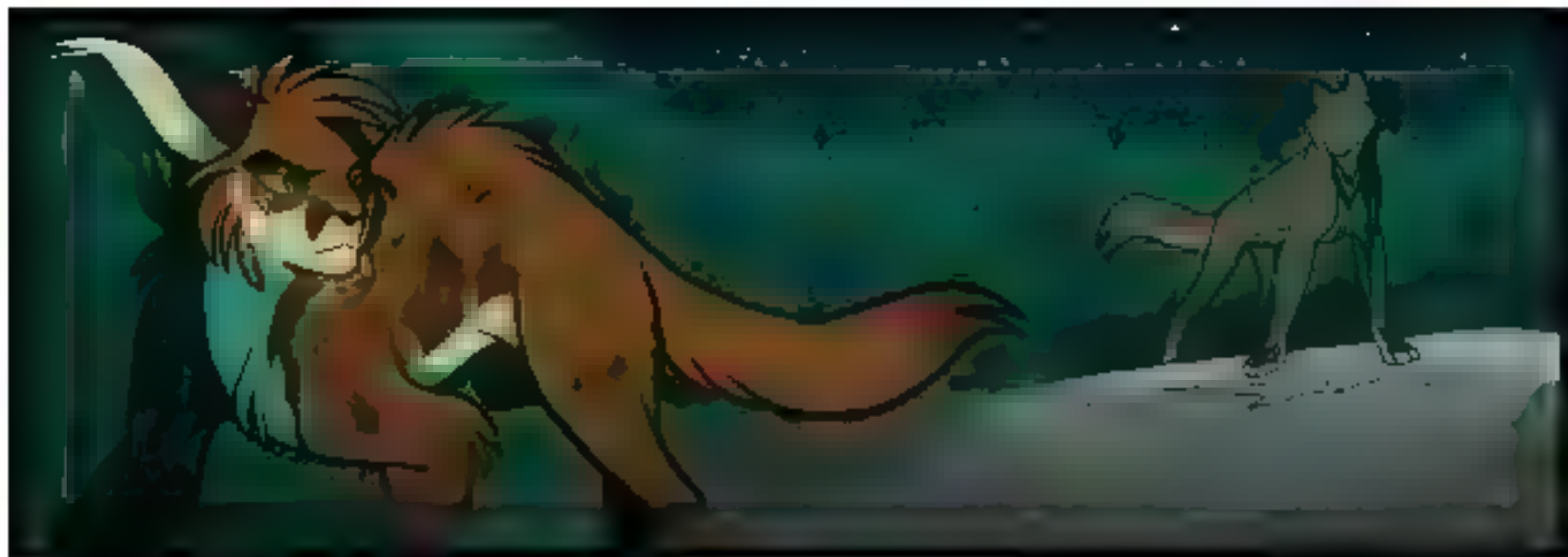
BLUESTAR WOULD NEVER
EXPECT US TO FIGHT AGAINST
IMPOSSIBLE ODDS.

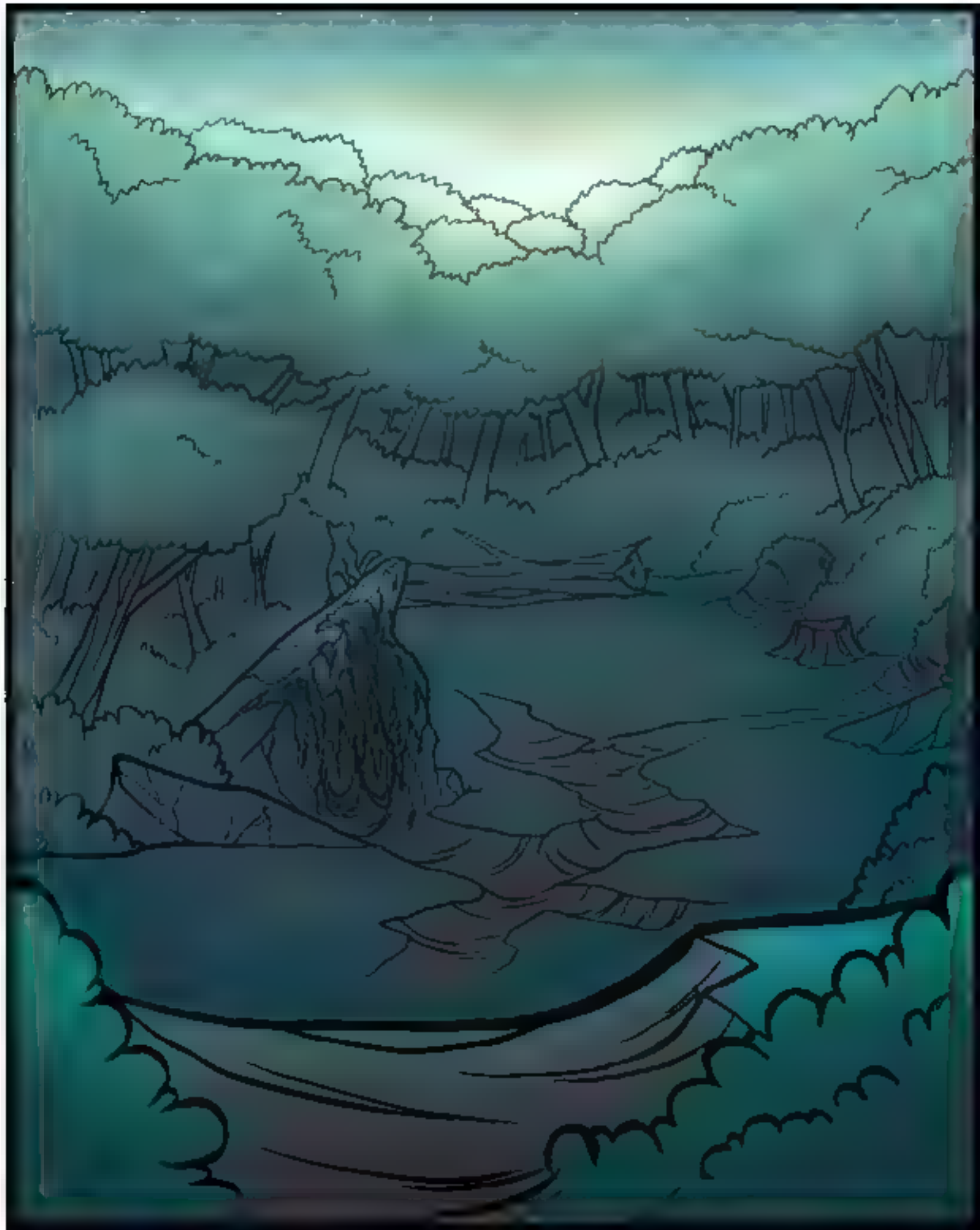
WE WILL HAVE ANOTHER
CHANCE TO AVENGE THIS DEFEAT.

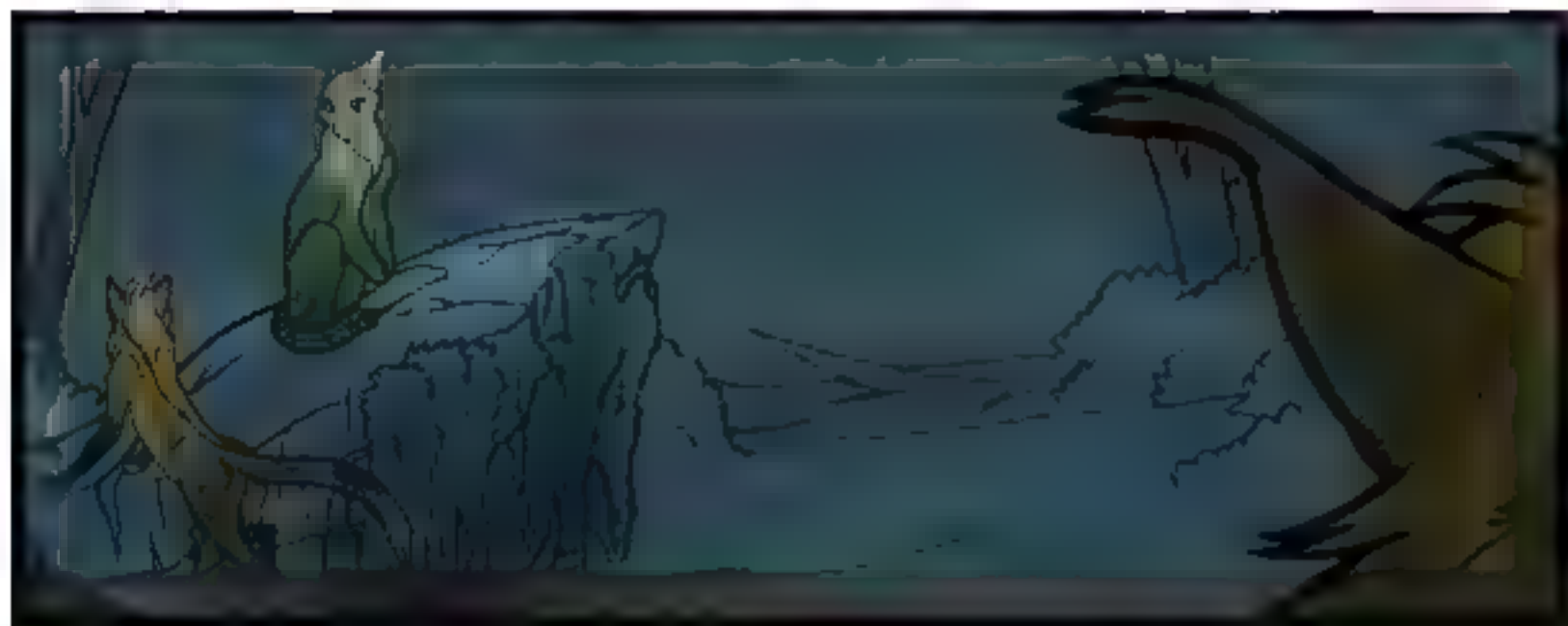


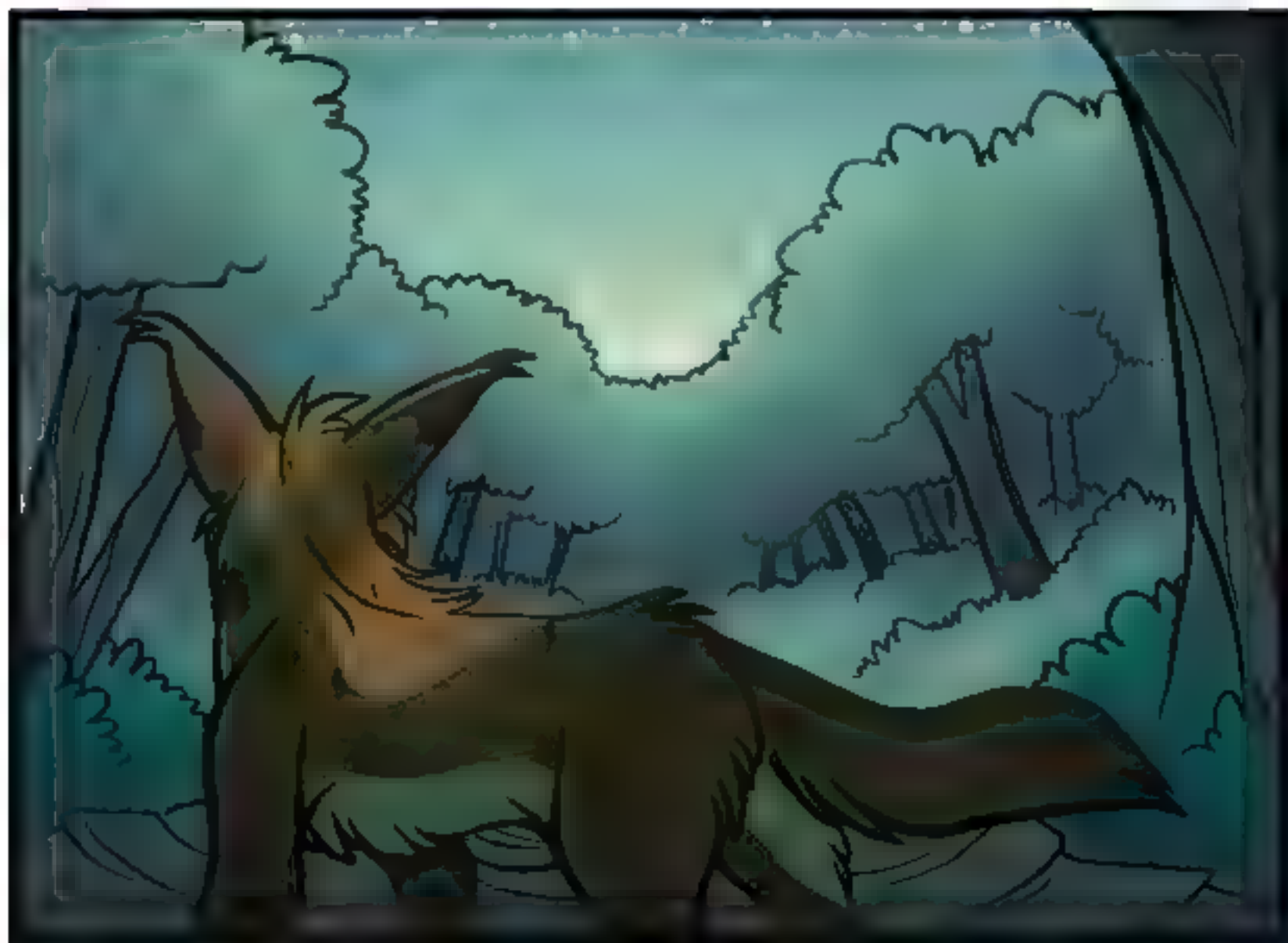
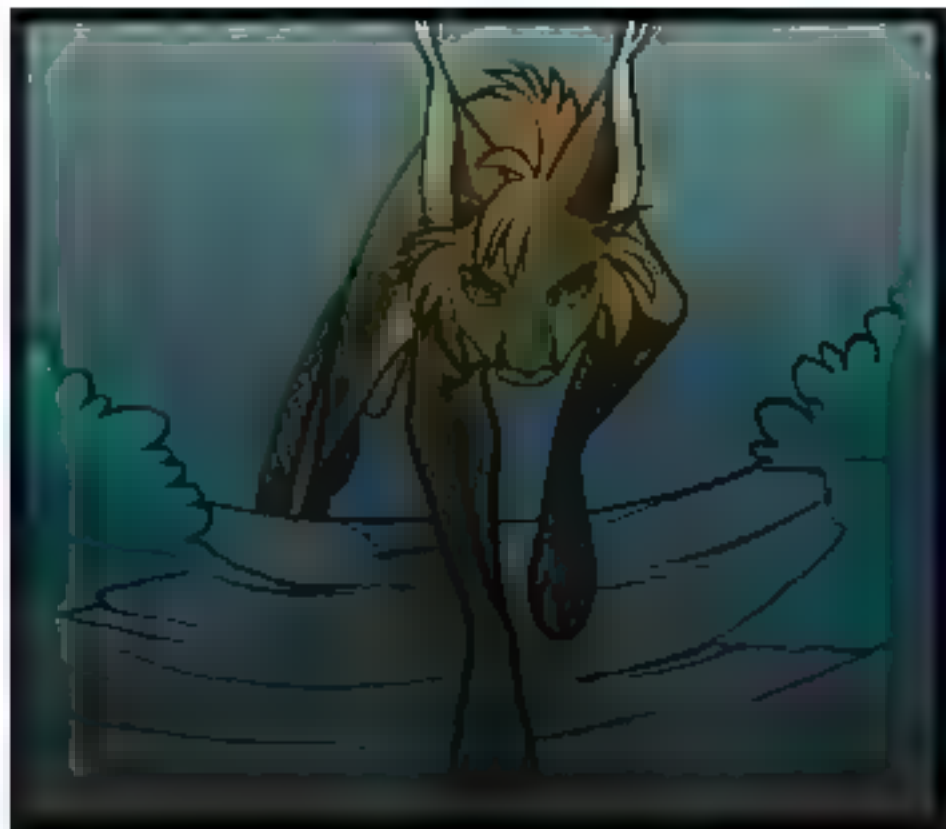
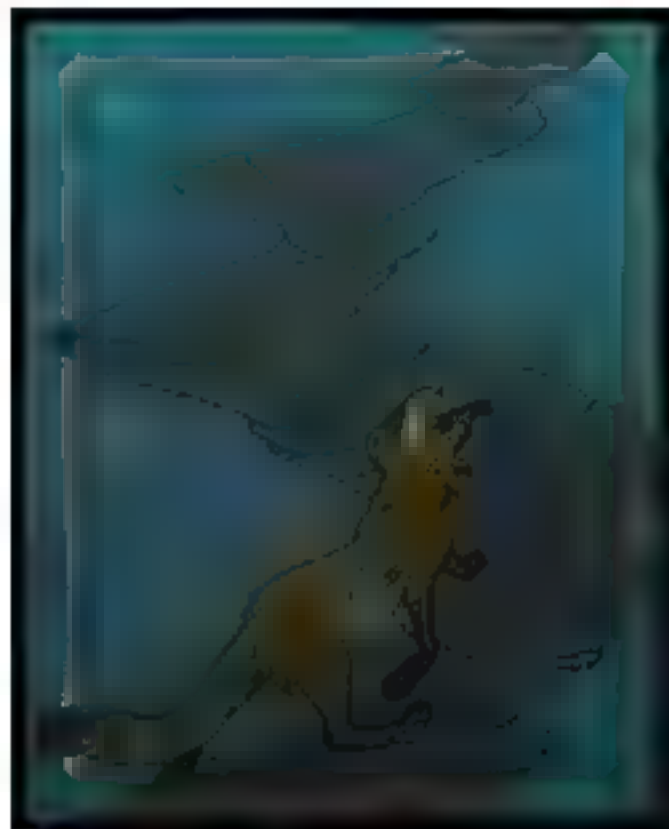
RETREAT,
THUNDERCLAN!

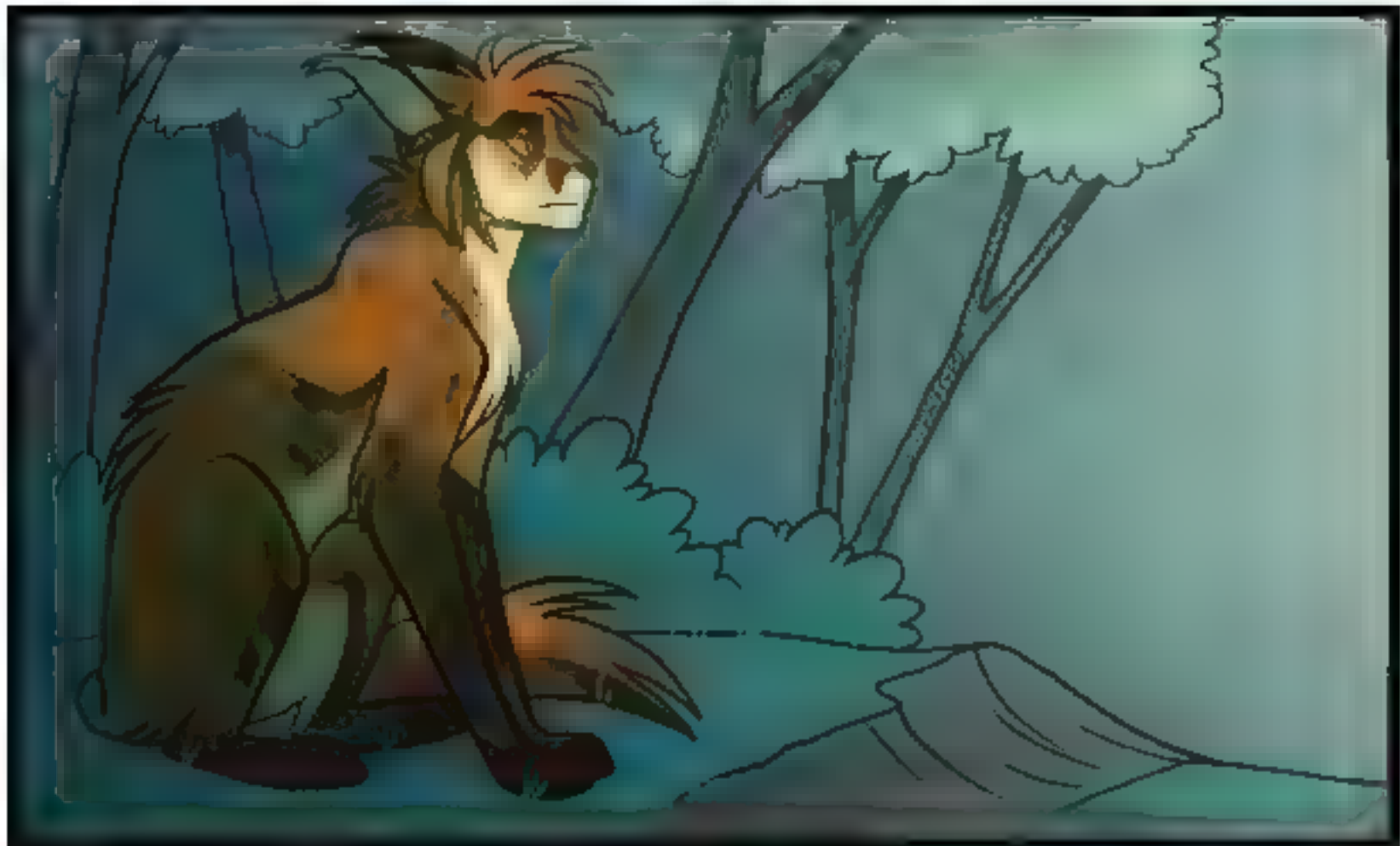
RETREAT!



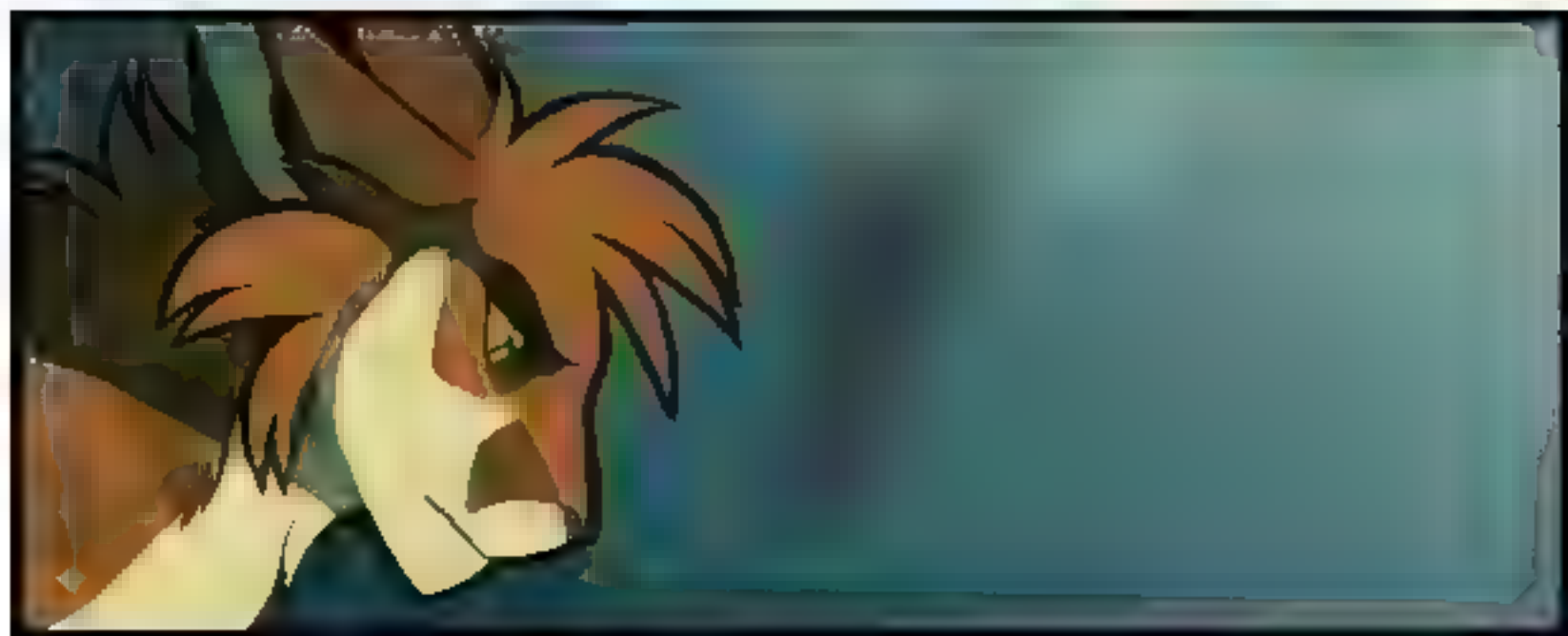


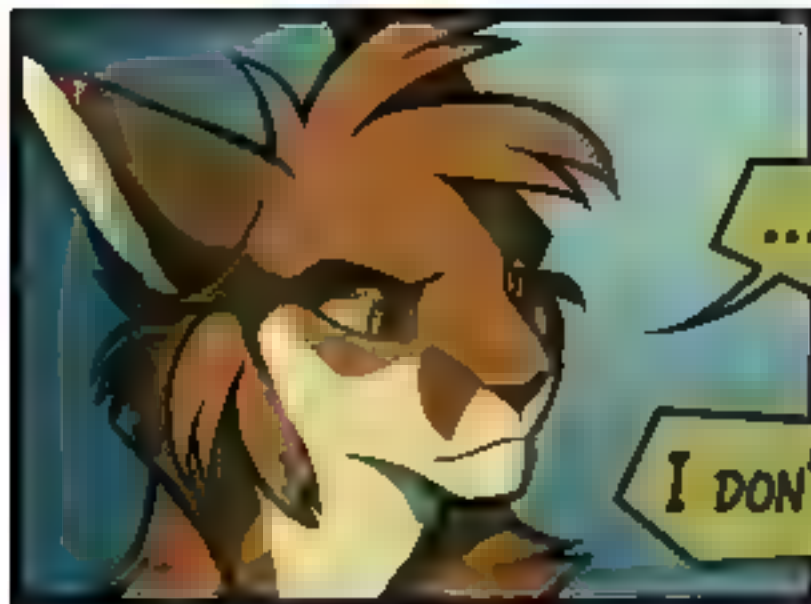






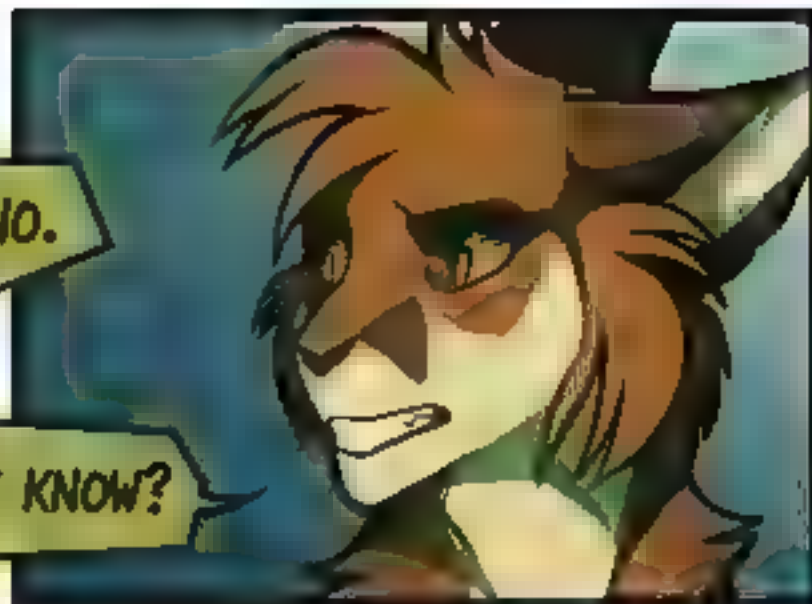






...NO.

I DON'T KNOW?



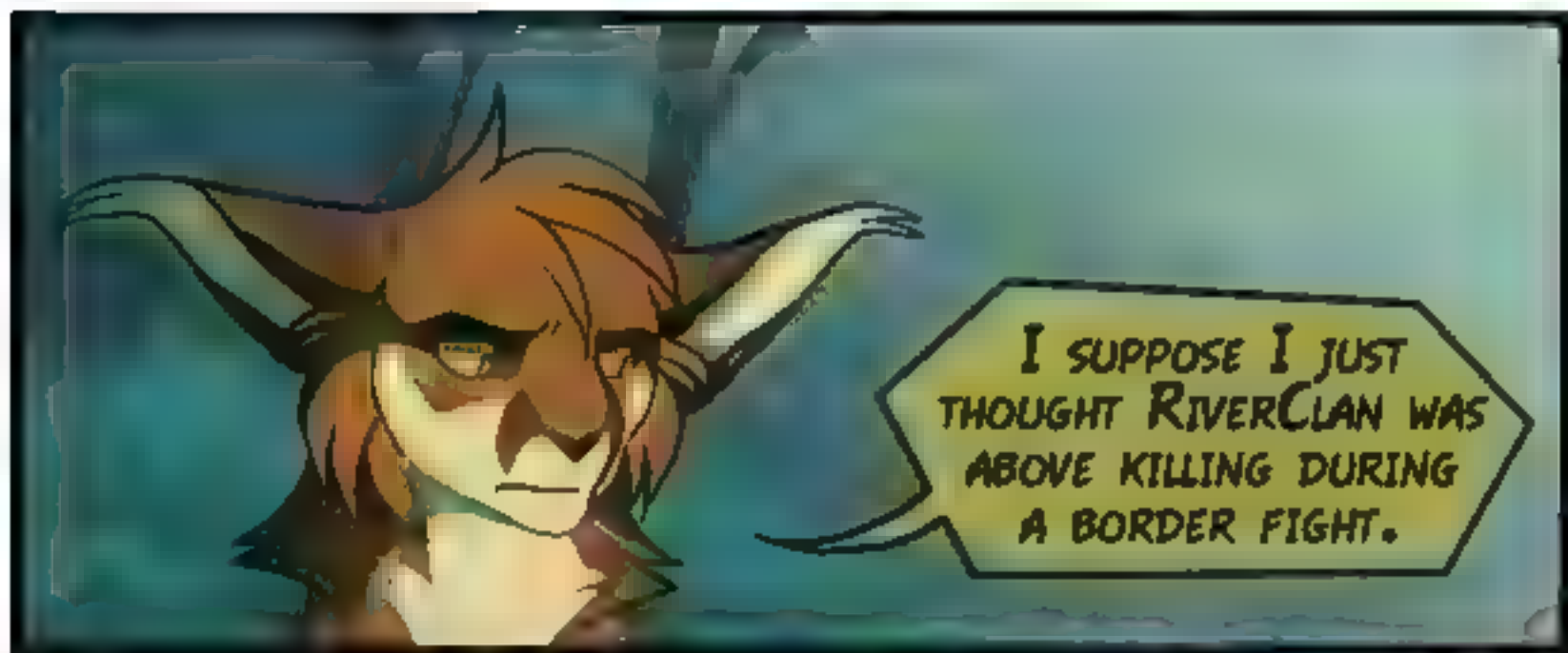
I DIDN'T WANT TO
LOSE ANYONE.

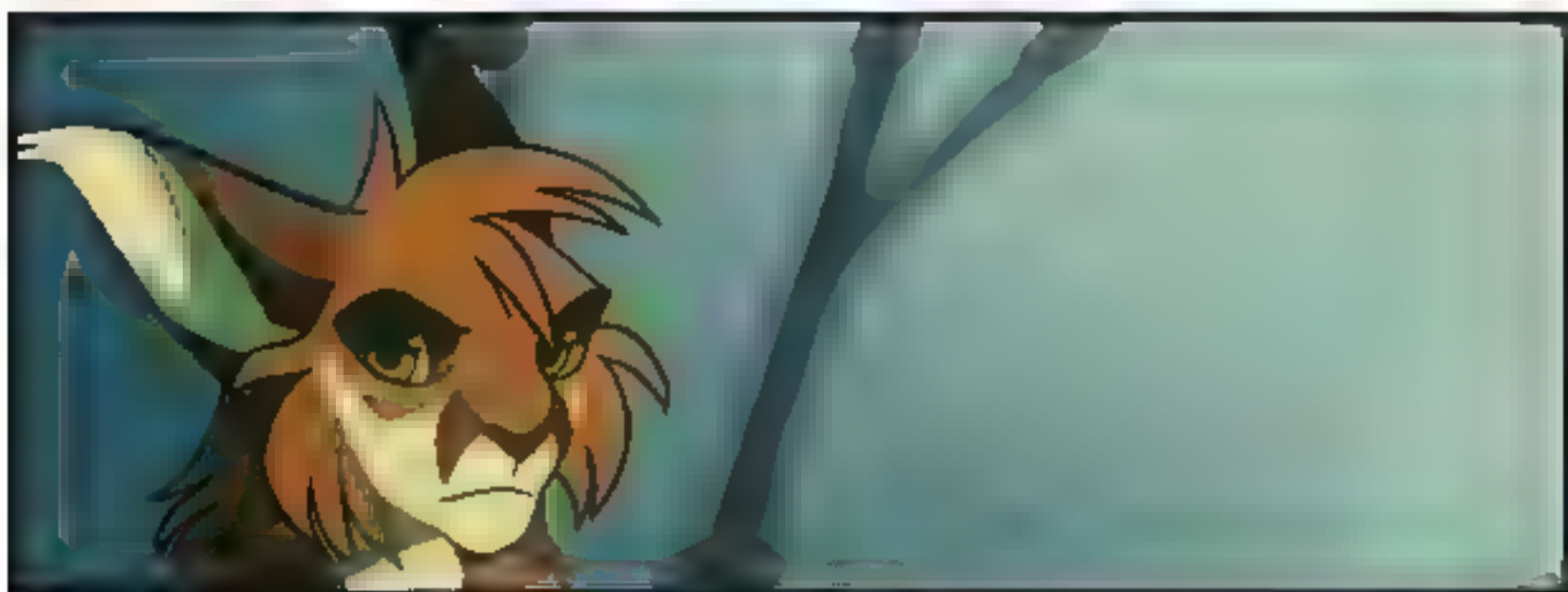


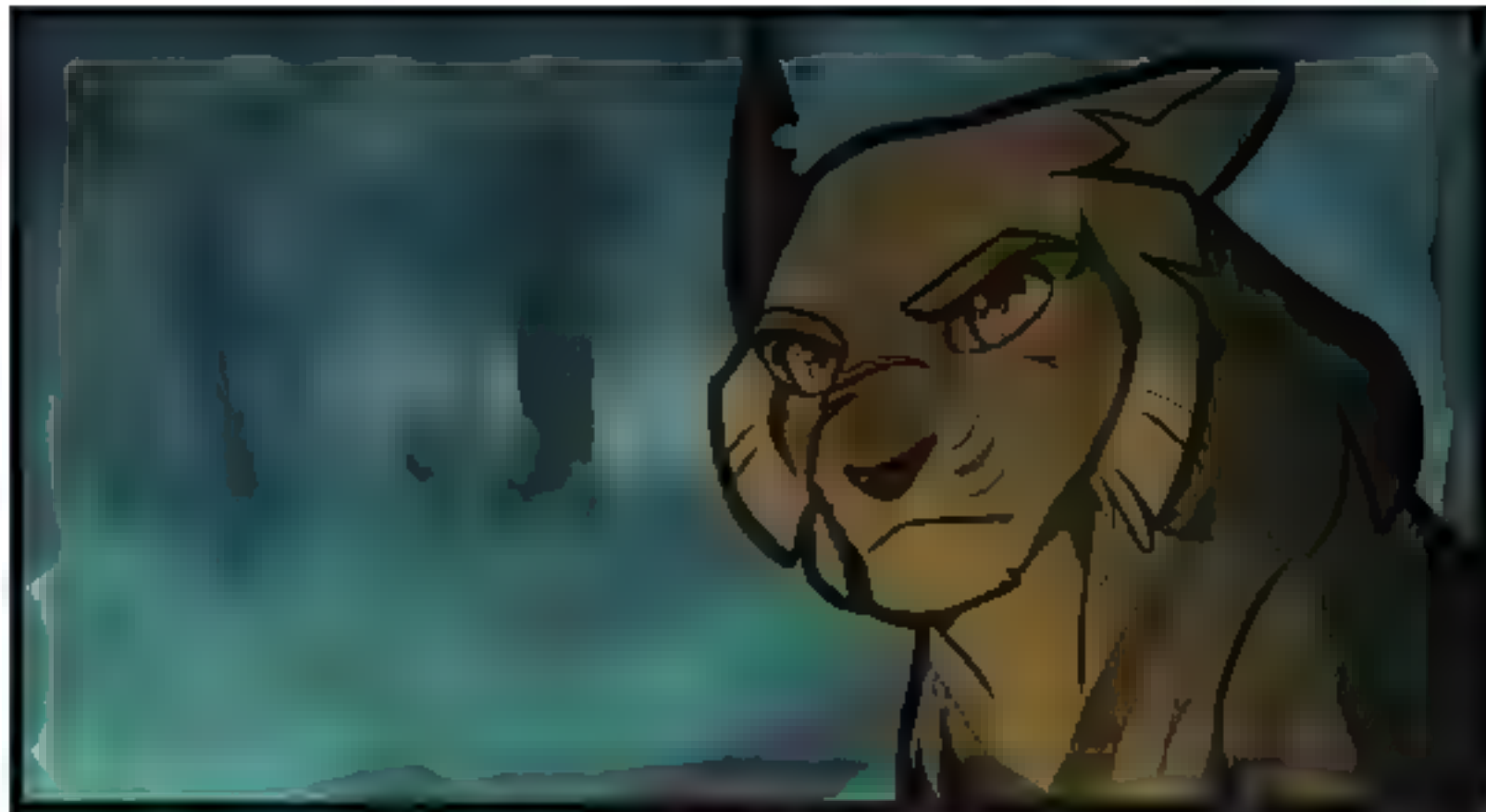
MOUSEFUR IN PARTICULAR
COULD HAVE DIED.



I WOULDN'T HAVE
LET THAT HAPPEN.





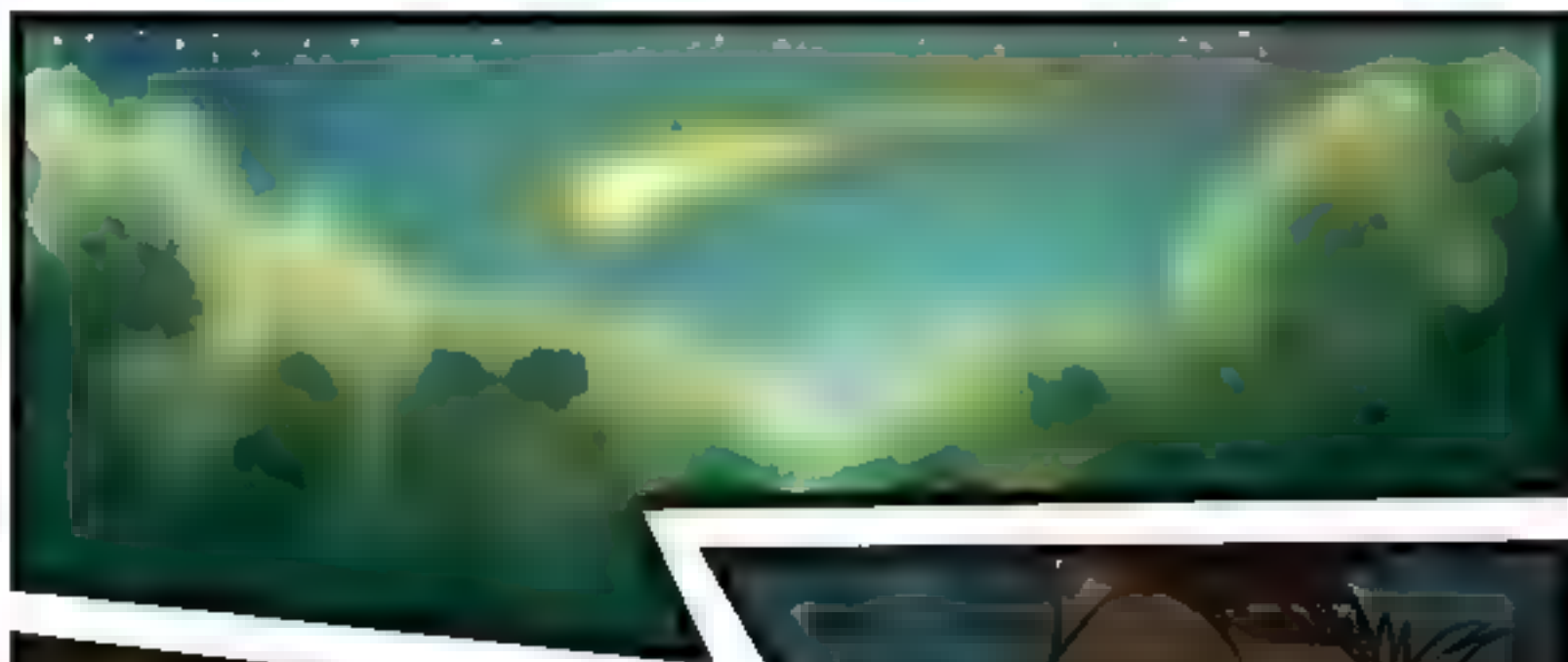


I SUPPOSE WE'LL
NEVER KNOW.

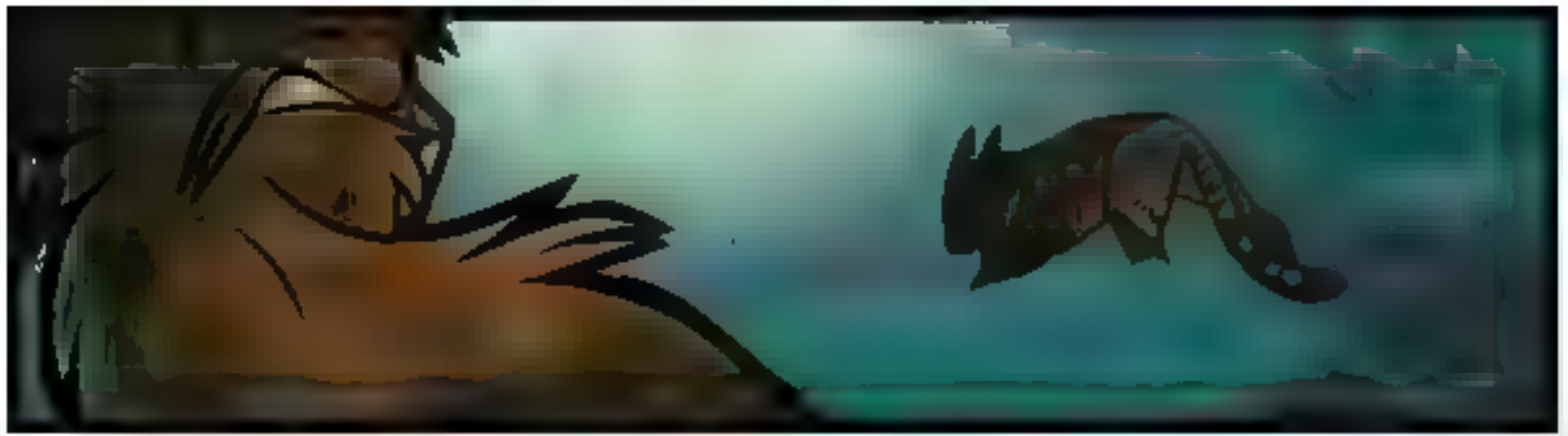
BUT THAT'S WHAT
BEING A WARRIOR IS
ALL ABOUT.

ALWAYS BEING READY TO
FIGHT, EVEN AT THE COST OF
YOUR OWN LIFE.

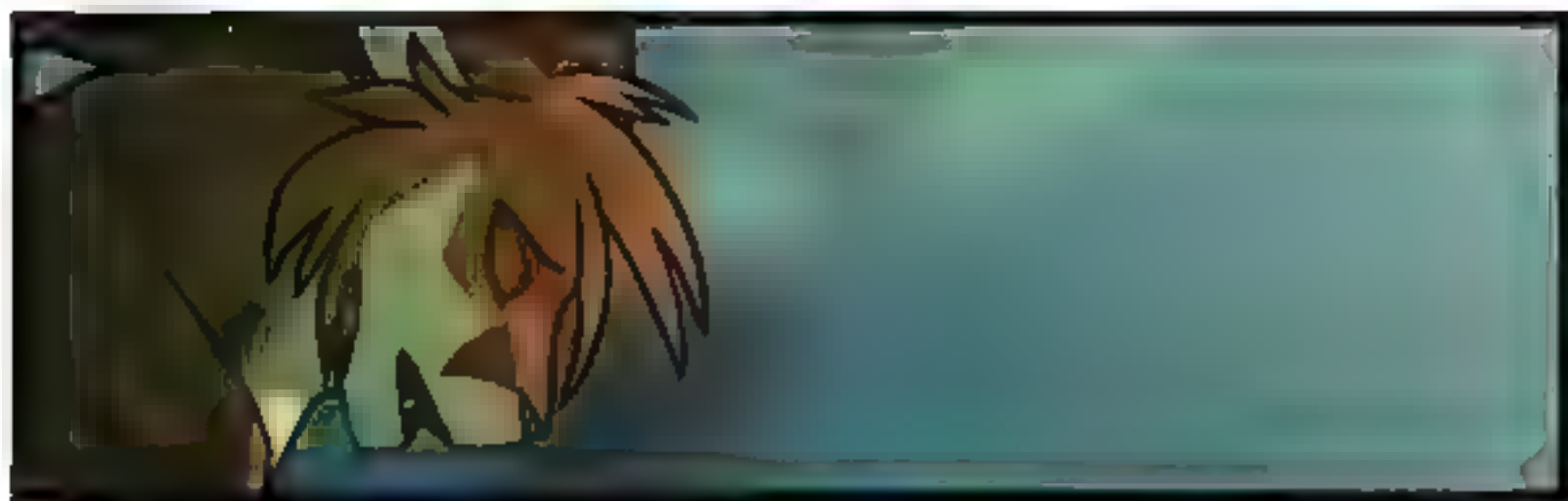
I THOUGHT IT WAS
ABOUT PROTECTING
OTHERS.














WE HAD TO RETREAT.

W-WAS ANYONE HURT?

NOT BADLY.

TIGERCLAW WILL
HAVE A SCAR.

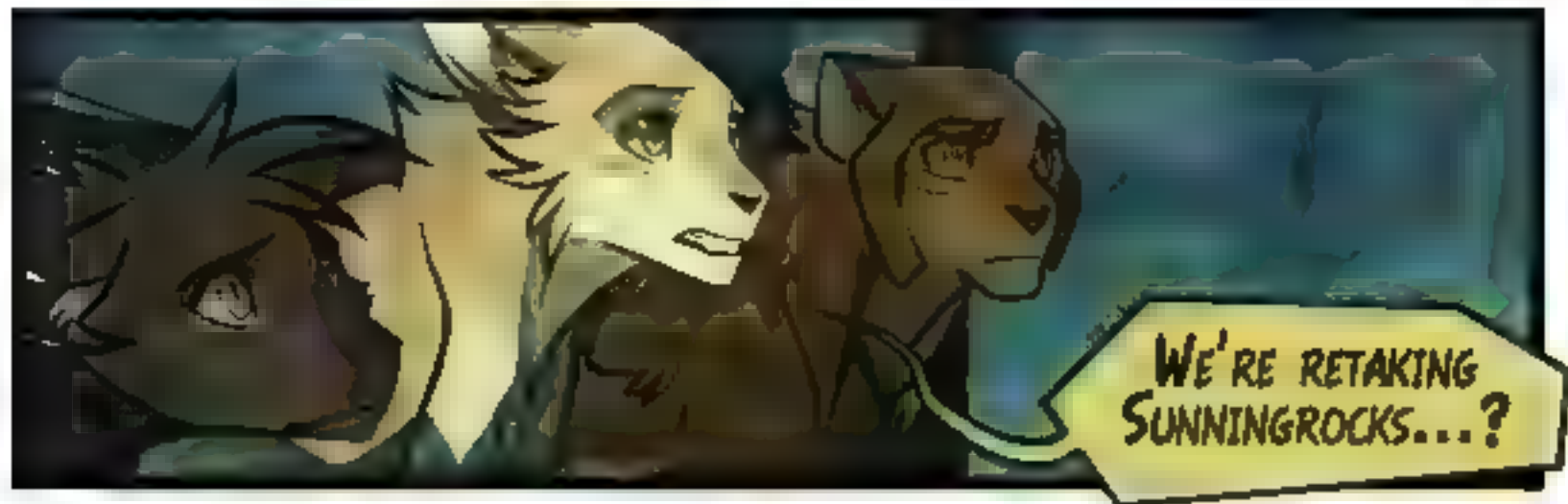
I....

WE SAW HIM.

IS HE MAD...?

WE'RE ALL JUST TIRED.

BUT WE'LL FIGHT
BACK HARDER NEXT
TIME.

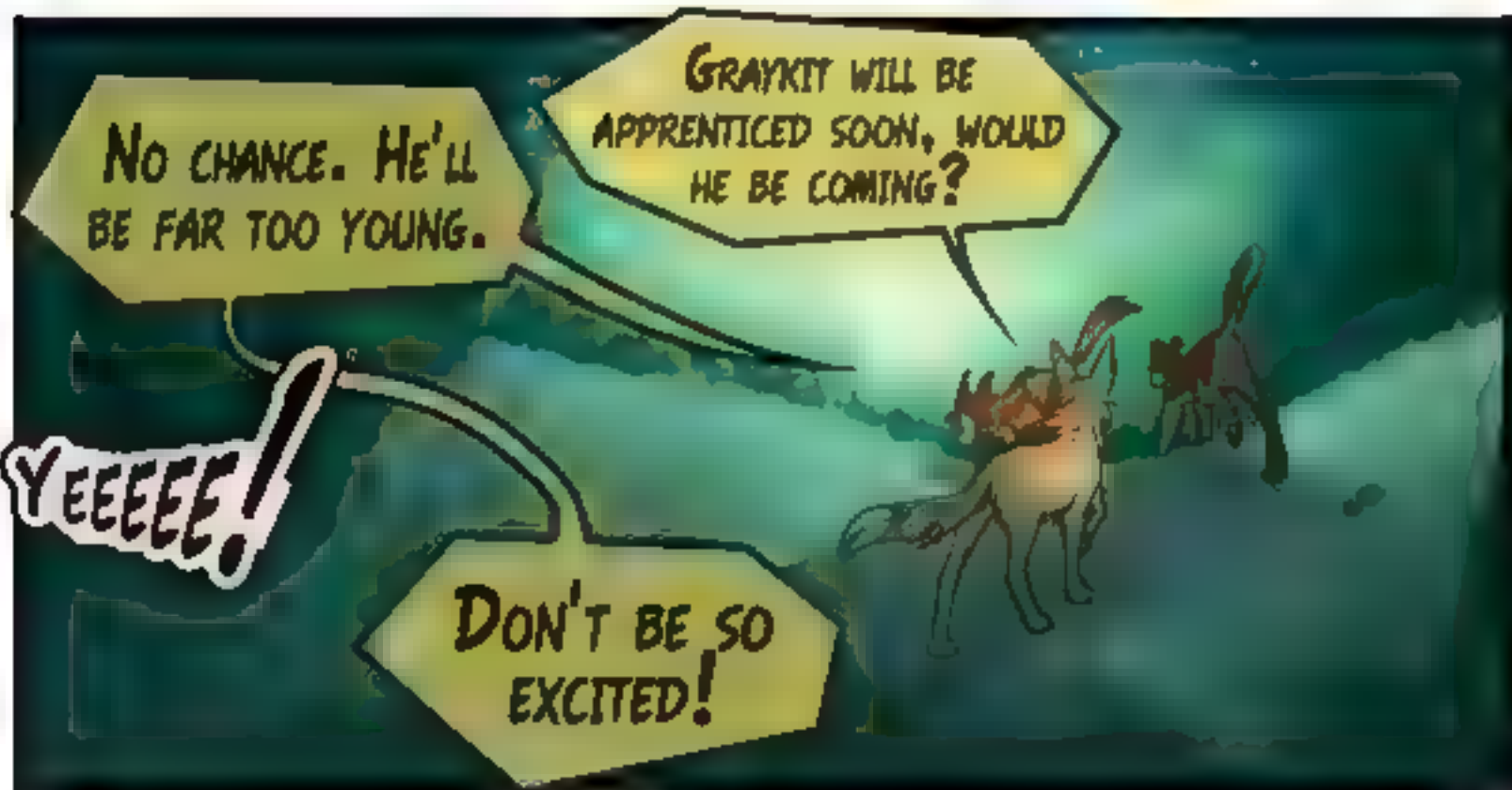




BUT WE SHOULD TAKE SOME
TIME TO RECOVER FIRST. MAYBE ONE OF YOU
WILL JOIN US IN THE BATTLE.



YEAH! I'LL CHASE
THOSE FISH-BREATHS OFF
OUR LAND EASY!



NO CHANCE. HE'LL
BE FAR TOO YOUNG.

GRAYKIT WILL BE
APPRENTICED SOON, WOULD
HE BE COMING?

YEEEEEE!

DON'T BE SO
EXCITED!

GRAYPAW!

GRAYPAW!

GRAYPAW!





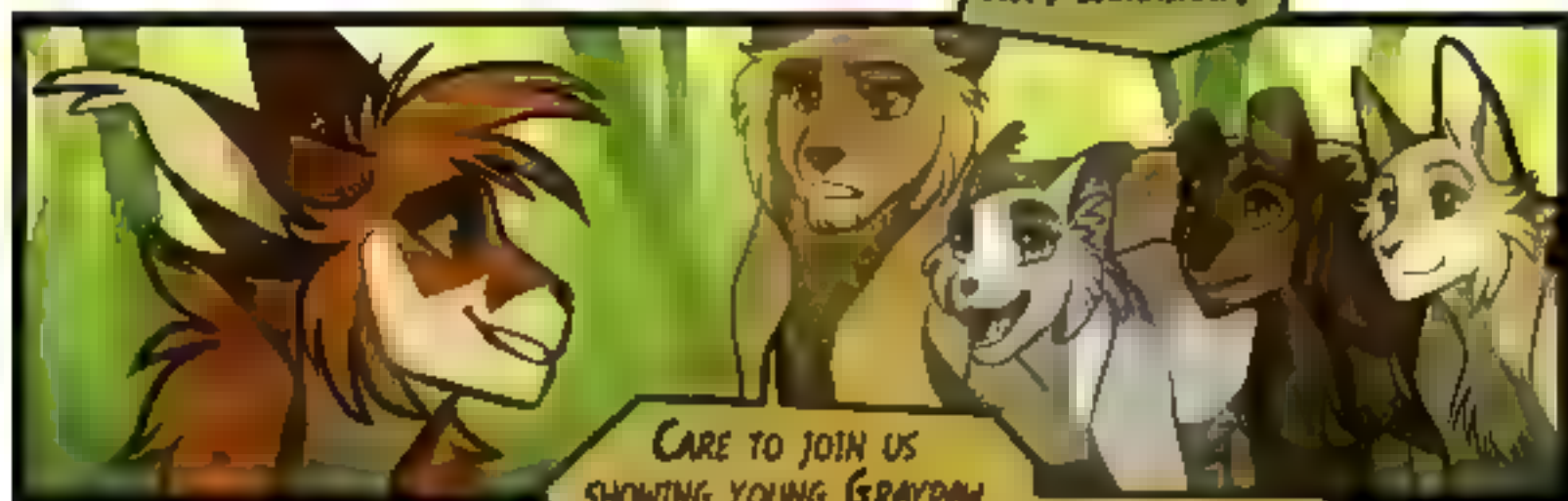


REDTAIL!



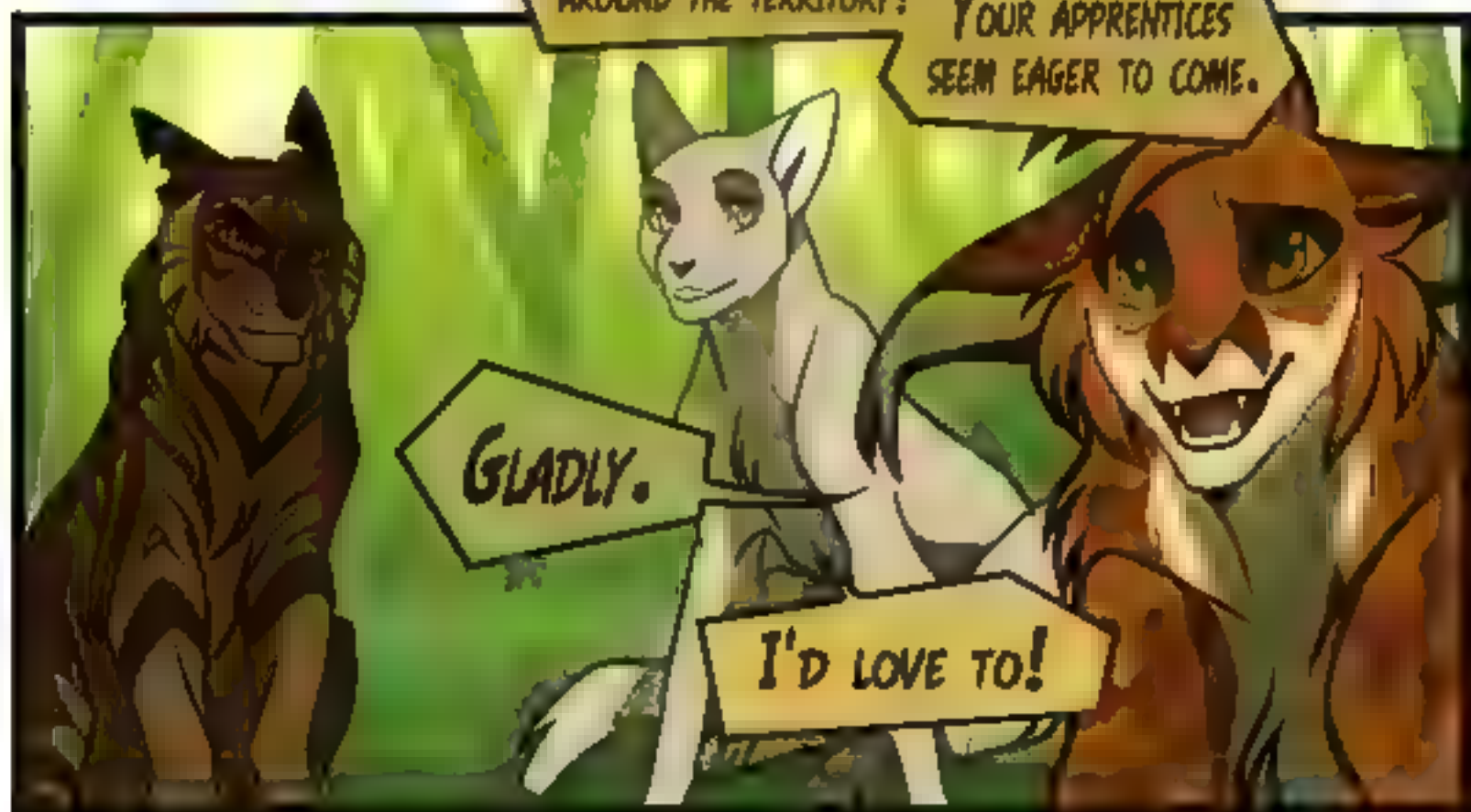
OH.

HEY, LIONHEART!




**CARE TO JOIN US
SHOWING YOUNG GRAYPAW
AROUND THE TERRITORY?**

**YOUR APPRENTICES
SEEM EAGER TO COME.**



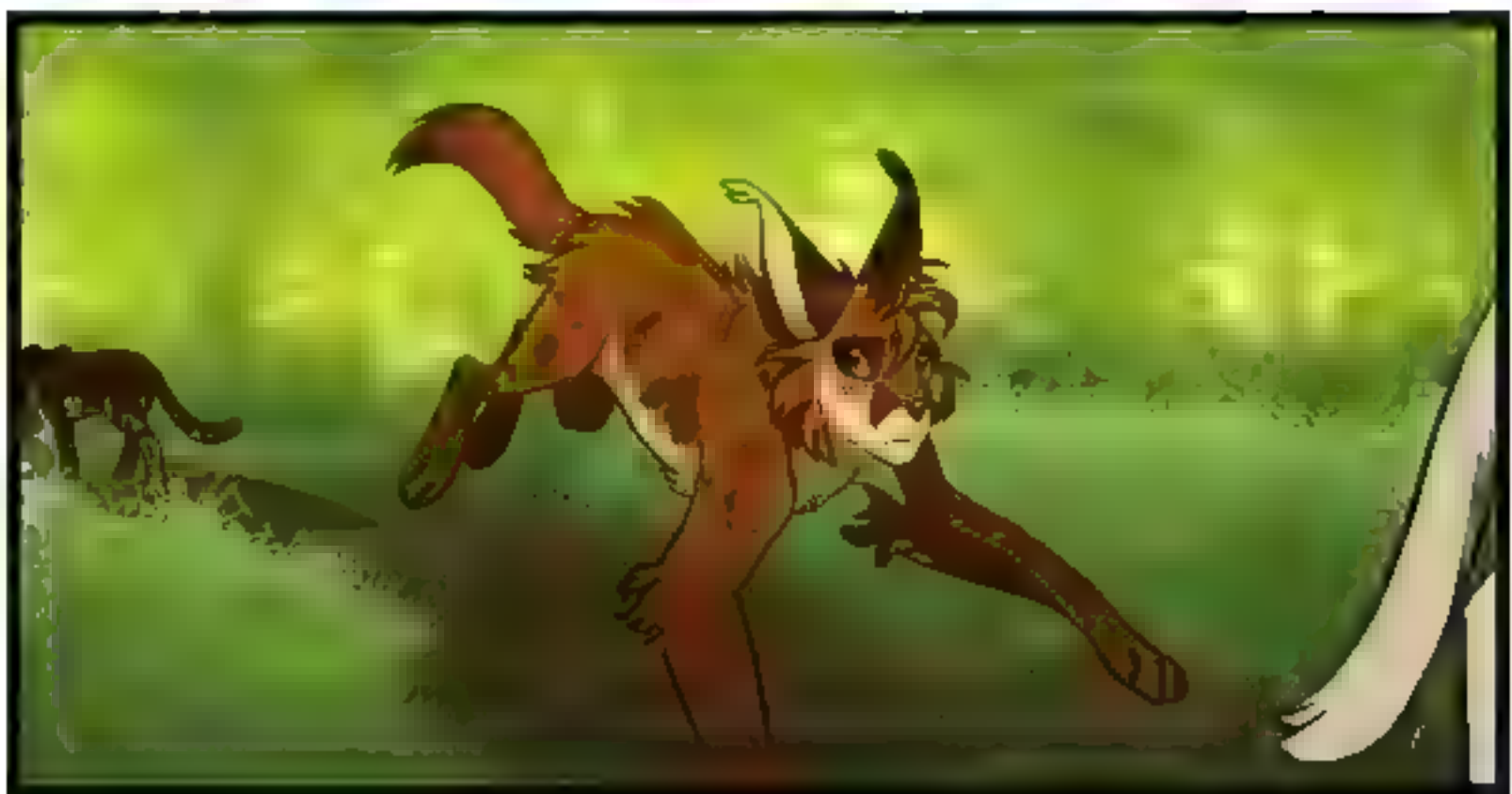
GLADLY.

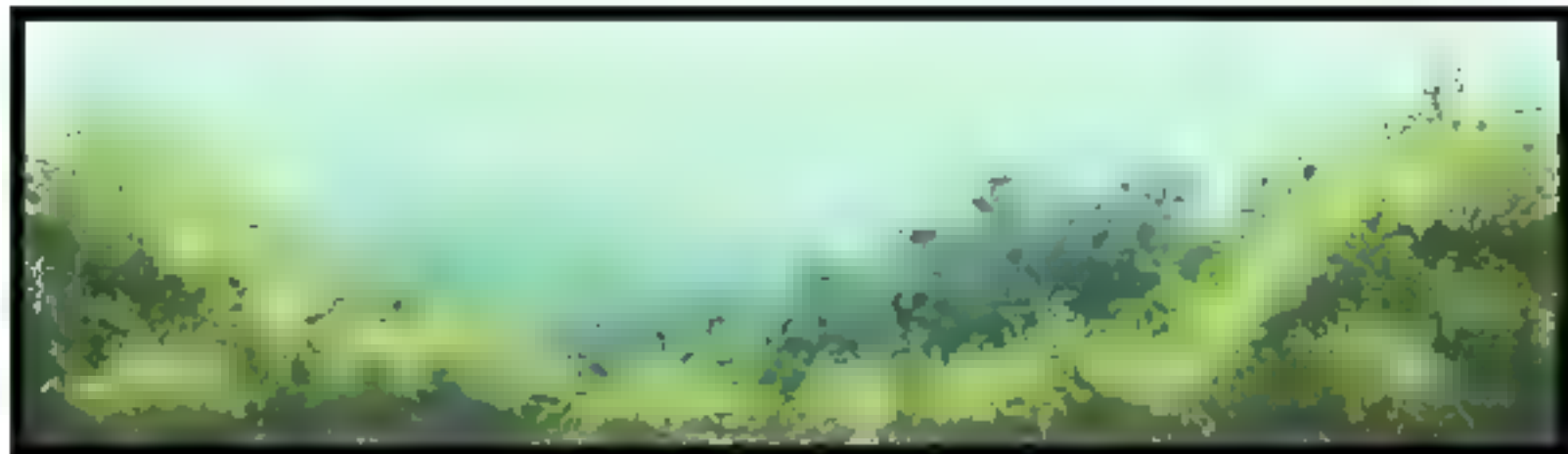
I'D LOVE TO!



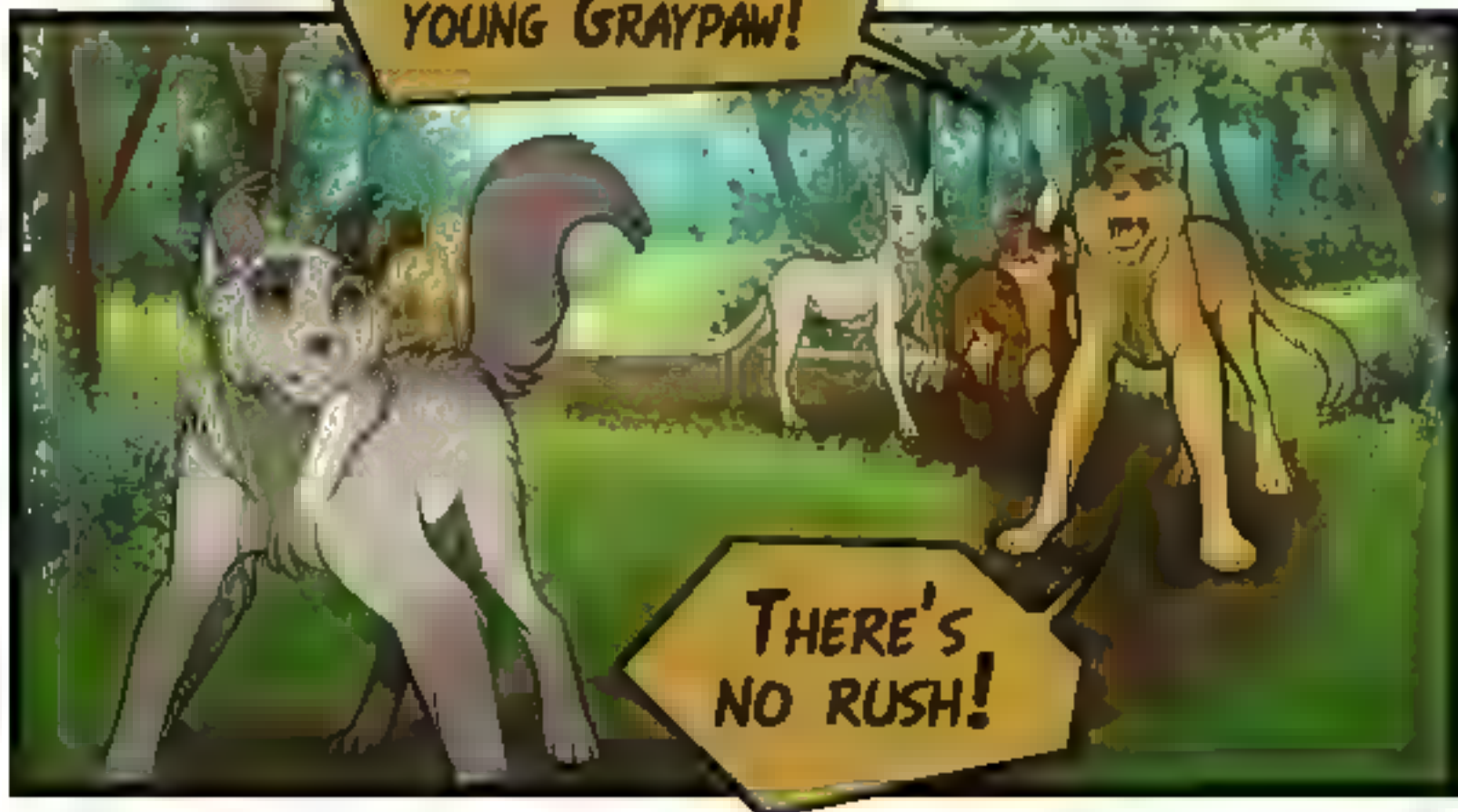
ARE YOU COMING?

No.





**SLOW DOWN,
YOUNG GRAYPAW!**



**THERE'S
NO RUSH!**



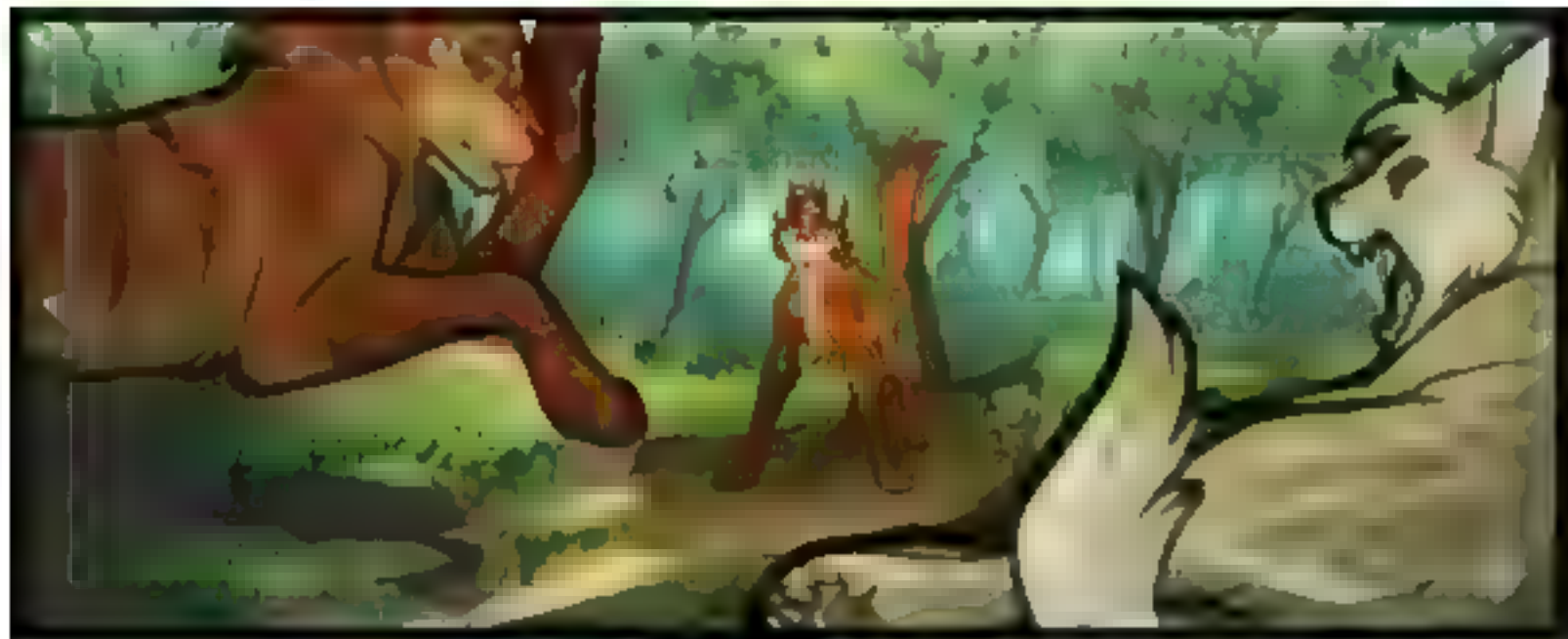
I MISS HAVING
THAT KIND OF ENERGY.



HEY, I SMELL SOMETHING
FUNNY THIS WAY!



I THINK IT'S OTHER CATS!



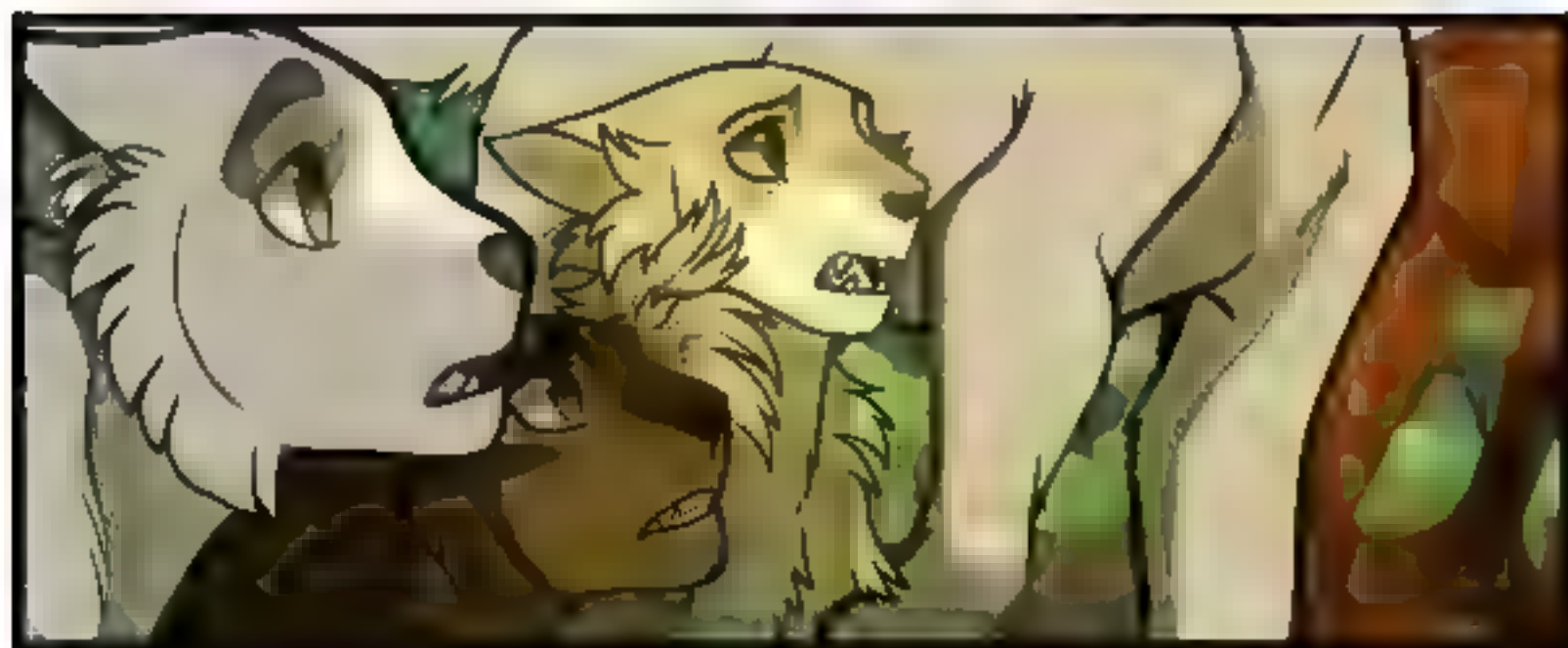


NICE TO SEE WHAT FAILURE
LOOKS LIKE UP CLOSE!

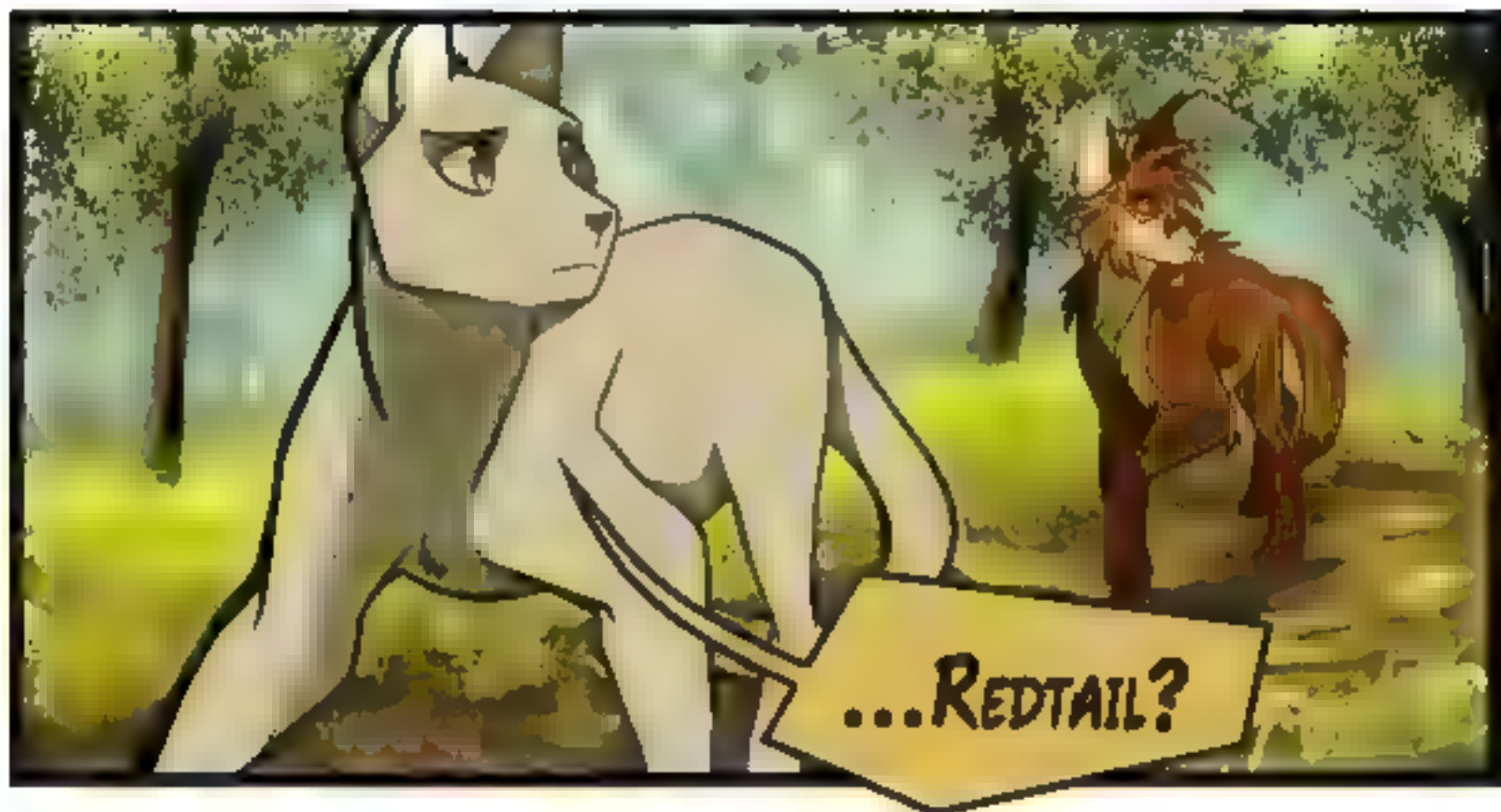


HOW DARE YOU!

WE'LL TEACH YOU--











THIS WASN'T MY IDEA.

I WOULD NEVER...

WE NEED THIS TERRITORY
FOR FOOD, AND YOU'RE USING
IT TO BATHE IN THE SUN!

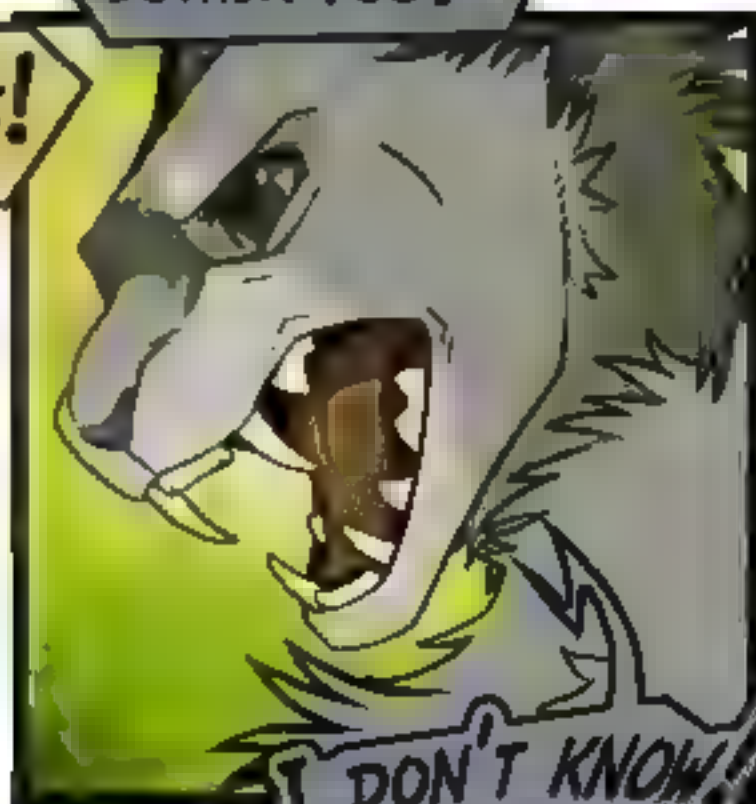


THAT DOESN'T
BOTHER YOU?

OF COURSE IT DOES!



BUT WHAT AM I
SUPPOSED TO DO?



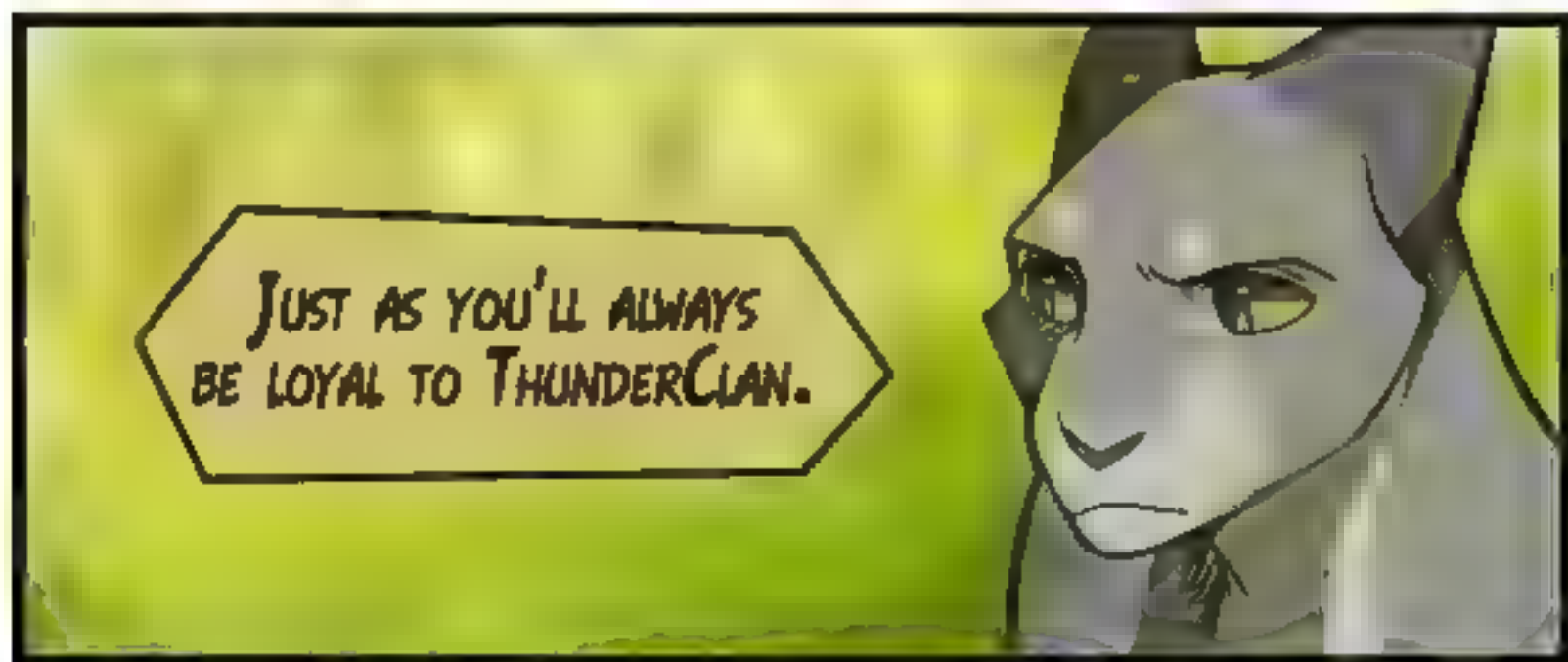
I DON'T KNOW!



I CAN'T SAY I'M
SORRY, BLUESTAR.



I'LL ALWAYS BE
LOYAL TO RIVERCLAN.

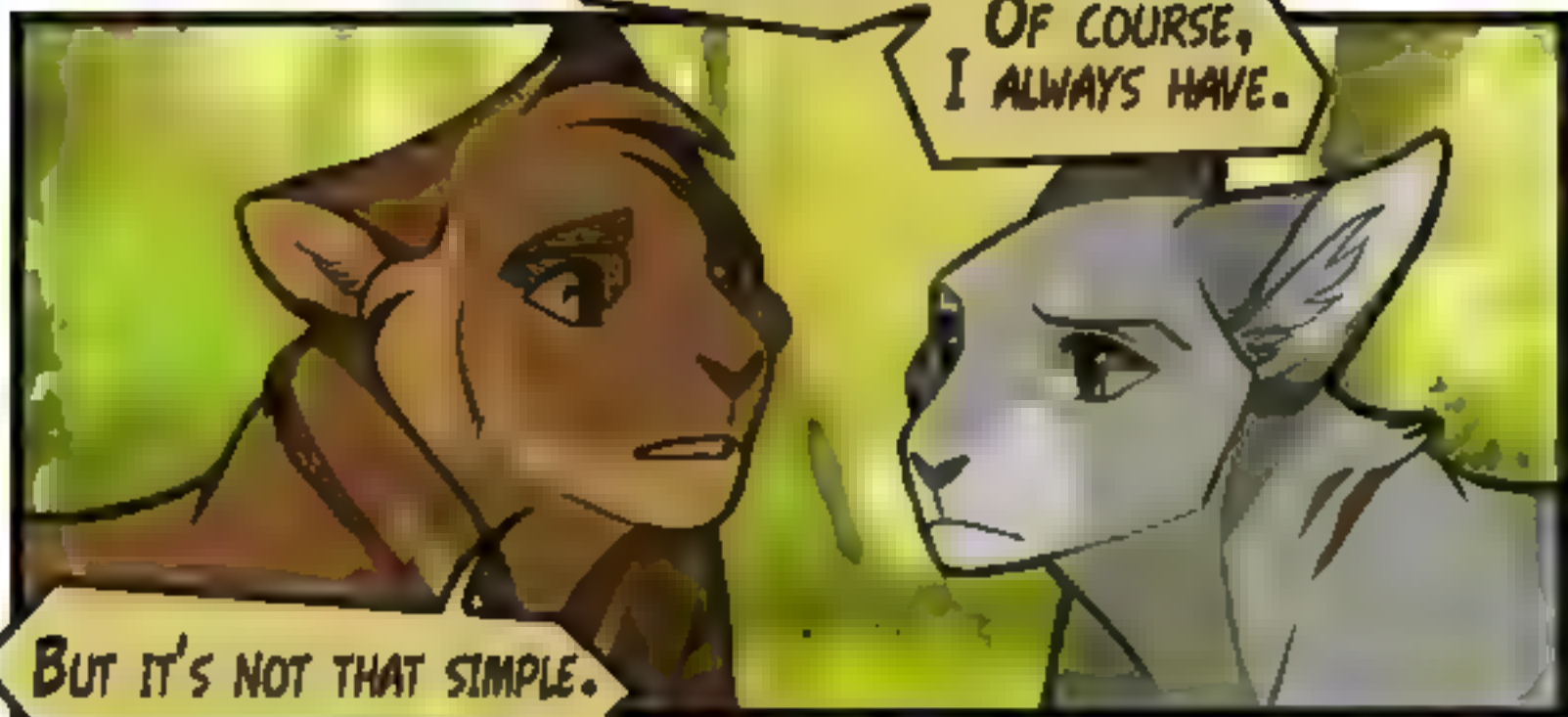


JUST AS YOU'LL ALWAYS
BE LOYAL TO THUNDERCLAN.

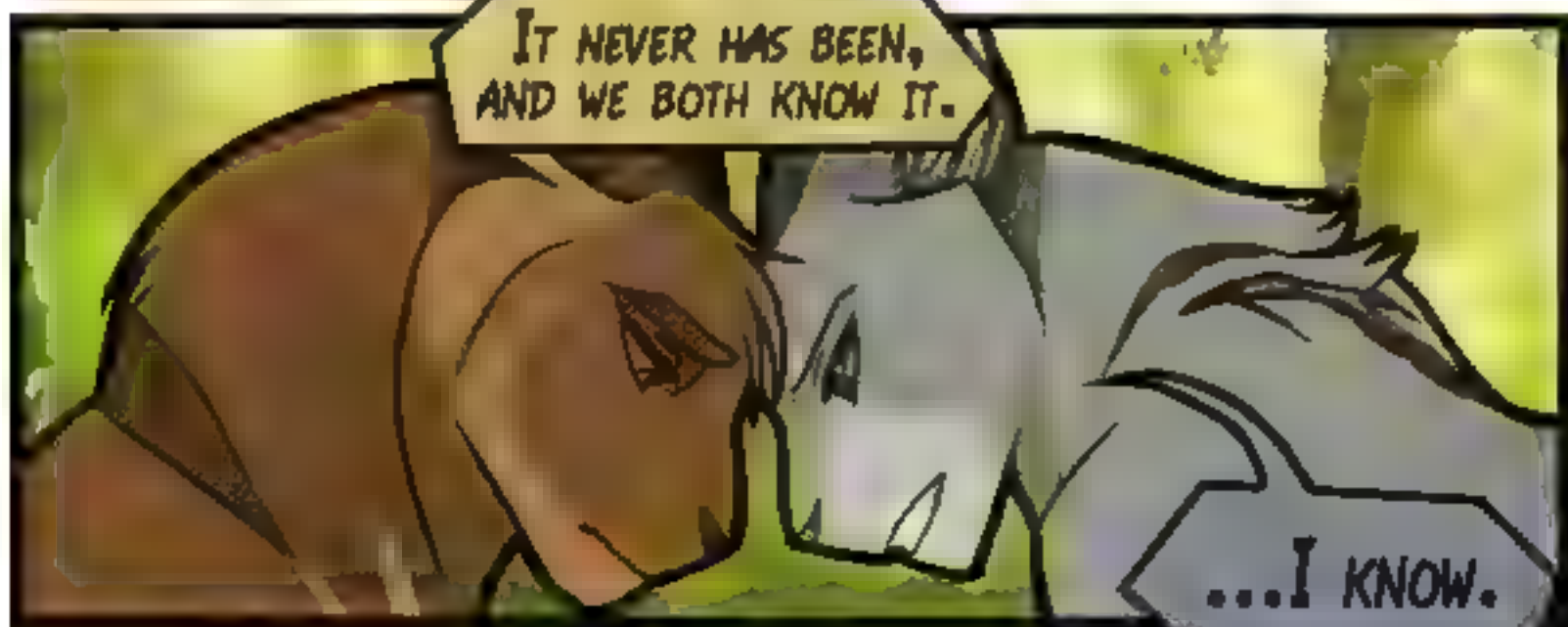


DO I WISH WE
COULD WORK THIS OUT
SOMEHOW?

OF COURSE,
I ALWAYS HAVE.



BUT IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE.



IT NEVER HAS BEEN,
AND WE BOTH KNOW IT.

...I KNOW.



BUT I WILL TAKE
THIS LAND BACK.



DON'T THINK IT
YOURS FOREVER.

I WOULDN'T HAVE
IT ANY OTHER WAY.













A WARRIOR HAS TO
CHOOSE THEIR BATTLES,
GRAYPAW.



YOU HAVE TO
KNOW WHEN TO FIGHT,
AND WHEN...



...TO RETREAT.



**DON'T WORRY
TOO MUCH ABOUT IT,
YOUNG ONE.**

**WHEN A LEADER OR
DEPUTY TELLS YOU WHAT
TO DO, YOU DO IT.**



**IT'S THEIR JOB TO
DECIDE IF IT'S WORTH
IT TO FIGHT**

**OR TO REGAIN THAT
VICTORY LATER.**



WILLOWPELT.

SPOTTEDLEAF.




HEY, GUYS.

HOW IS THE PATROL?



IS GRAYPAW
DOING WELL?

ABSOLUTELY.




WHAT ARE YOU
DOING HERE?

I NEEDED TO GATHER
HERBS AND WILLOWPELT CAME
AS MY BODYGUARD.

MIND IF WE STEAL
OUR BROTHER?



ONLY IF
I CAN COME.

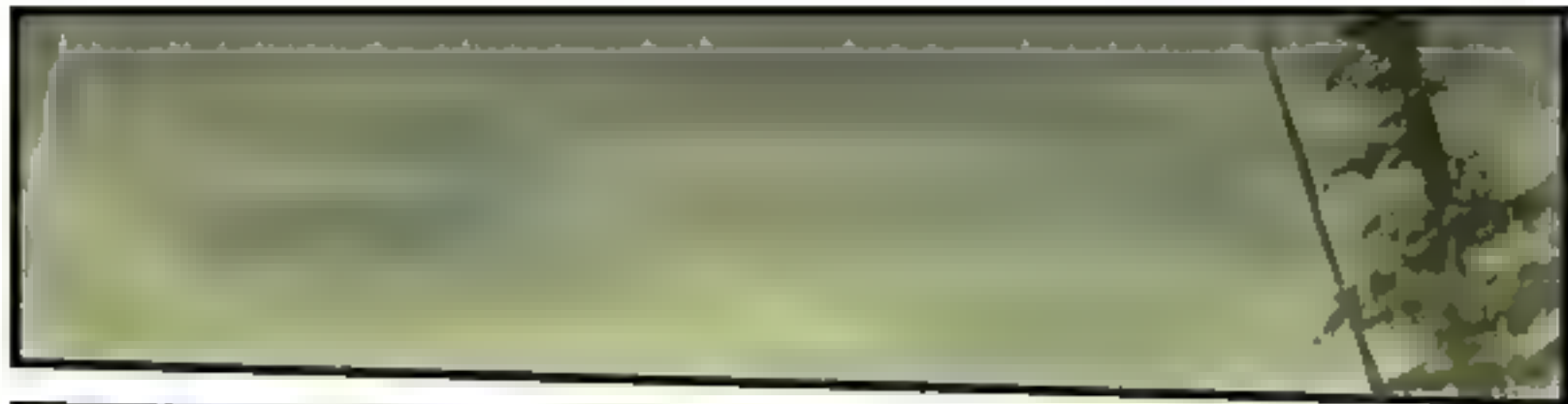


LIONHEART, THINK
YOU CAN HANDLE THE
APPRENTICES?

CERTAINLY.


WE'LL MEET YOU
BACK AT CAMP.





**TIGERCLAW MUST
BE ON HIS PATROL
BY NOW.**



A scene in a forest with three cats. A small gray kitten is on the left, a white cat is in the middle, and a brown cat is on the right.

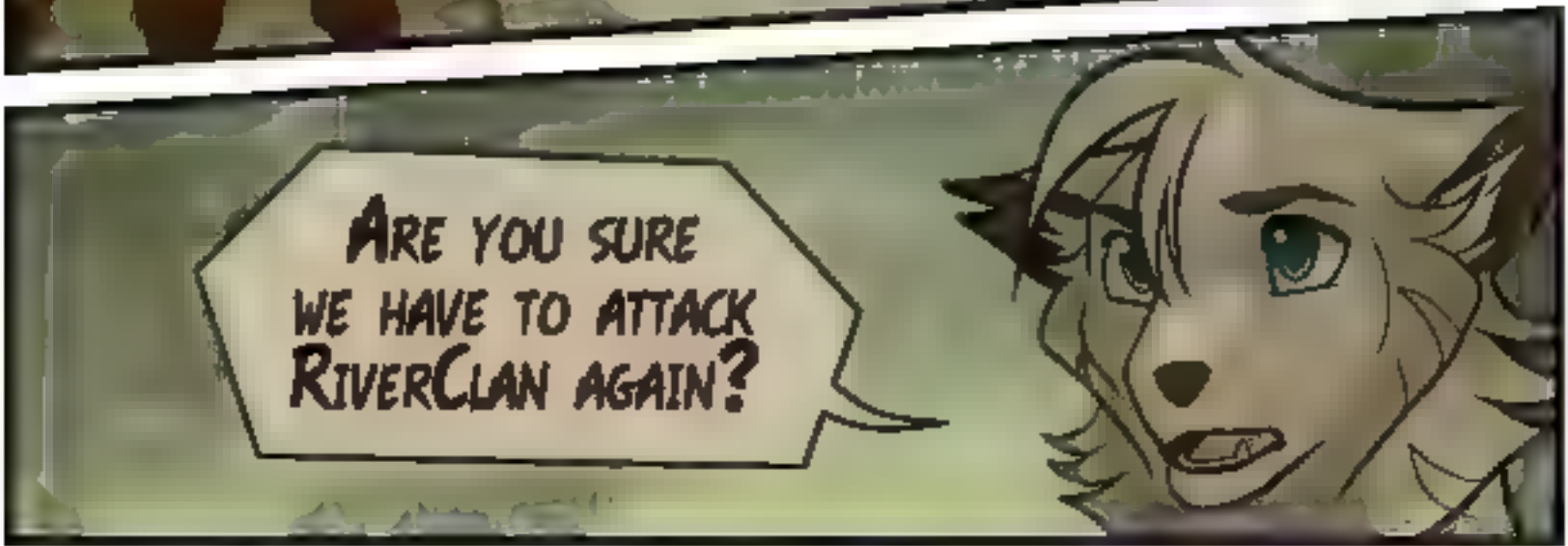
SO GRAYPAW
IS DOING WELL?

HE'LL BE A GREAT
WARRIOR ONE DAY.

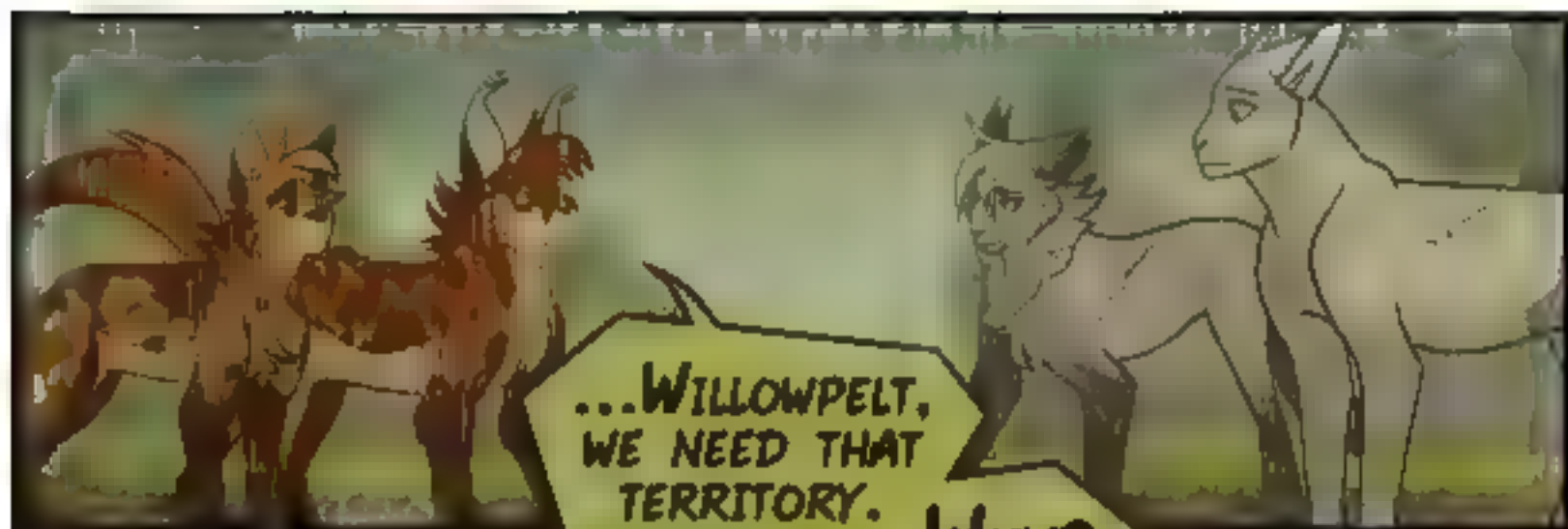
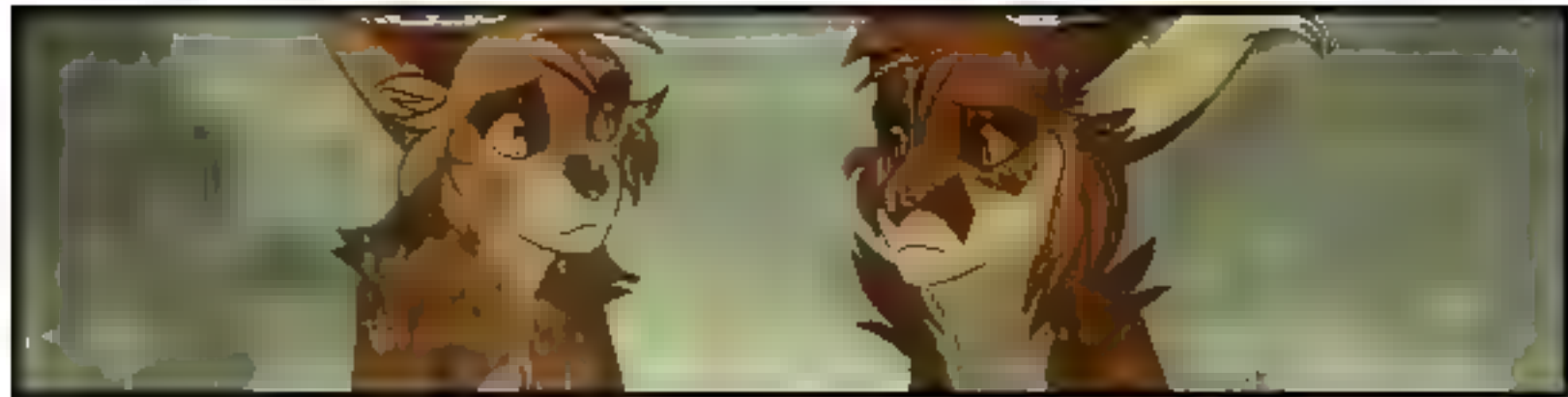
YOU MUST BE PROUD.

A scene with two cats. A white cat is on the left, and a gray cat is on the right.

WHAT'S ON
YOUR MIND?

A close-up of a gray cat's face, looking surprised with wide eyes and an open mouth.

ARE YOU SURE
WE HAVE TO ATTACK
RIVERCLAN AGAIN?



WHY?

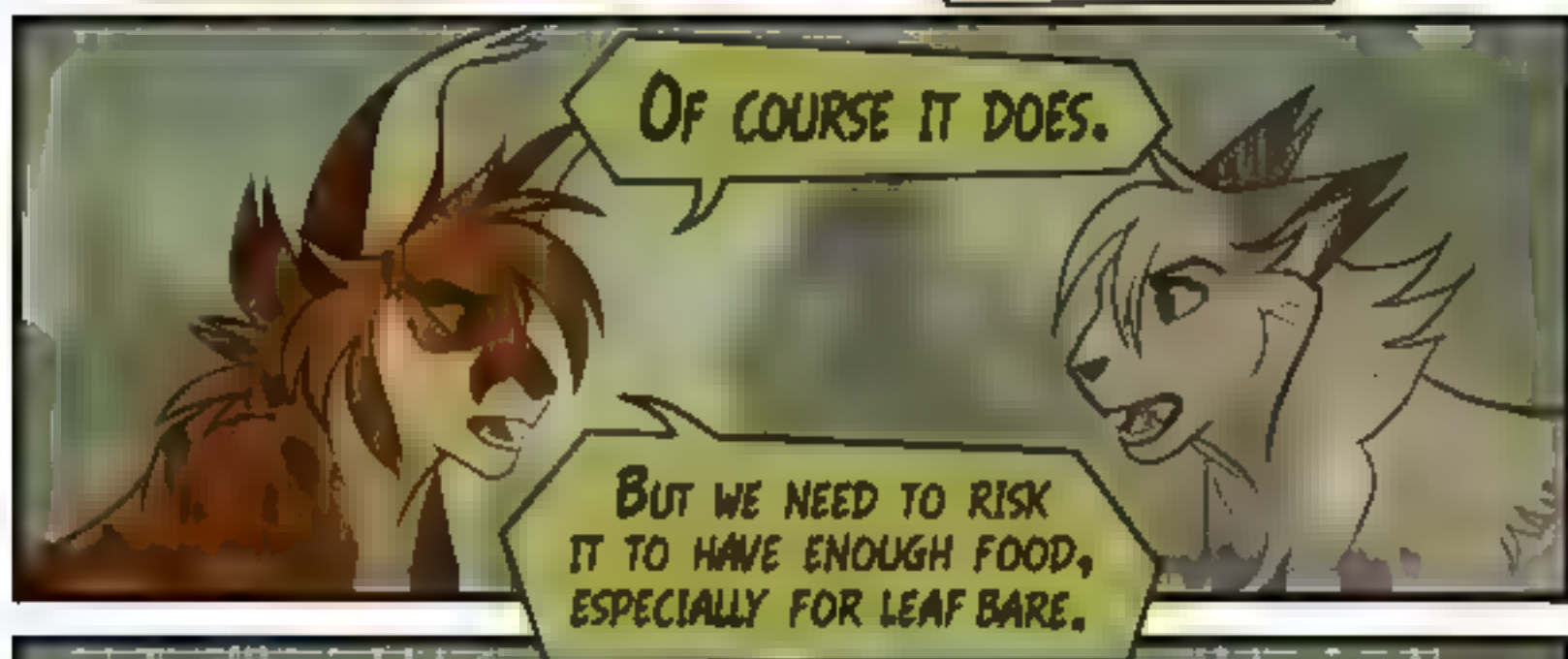
I JUST DON'T
WANT TO FIGHT A
NEEDLESS BATTLE.



DON'T GET ME WRONG.
I WILL FIGHT TO THE DEATH
TO DEFEND THIS CLAN.

BUT AFTER LAST TIME...



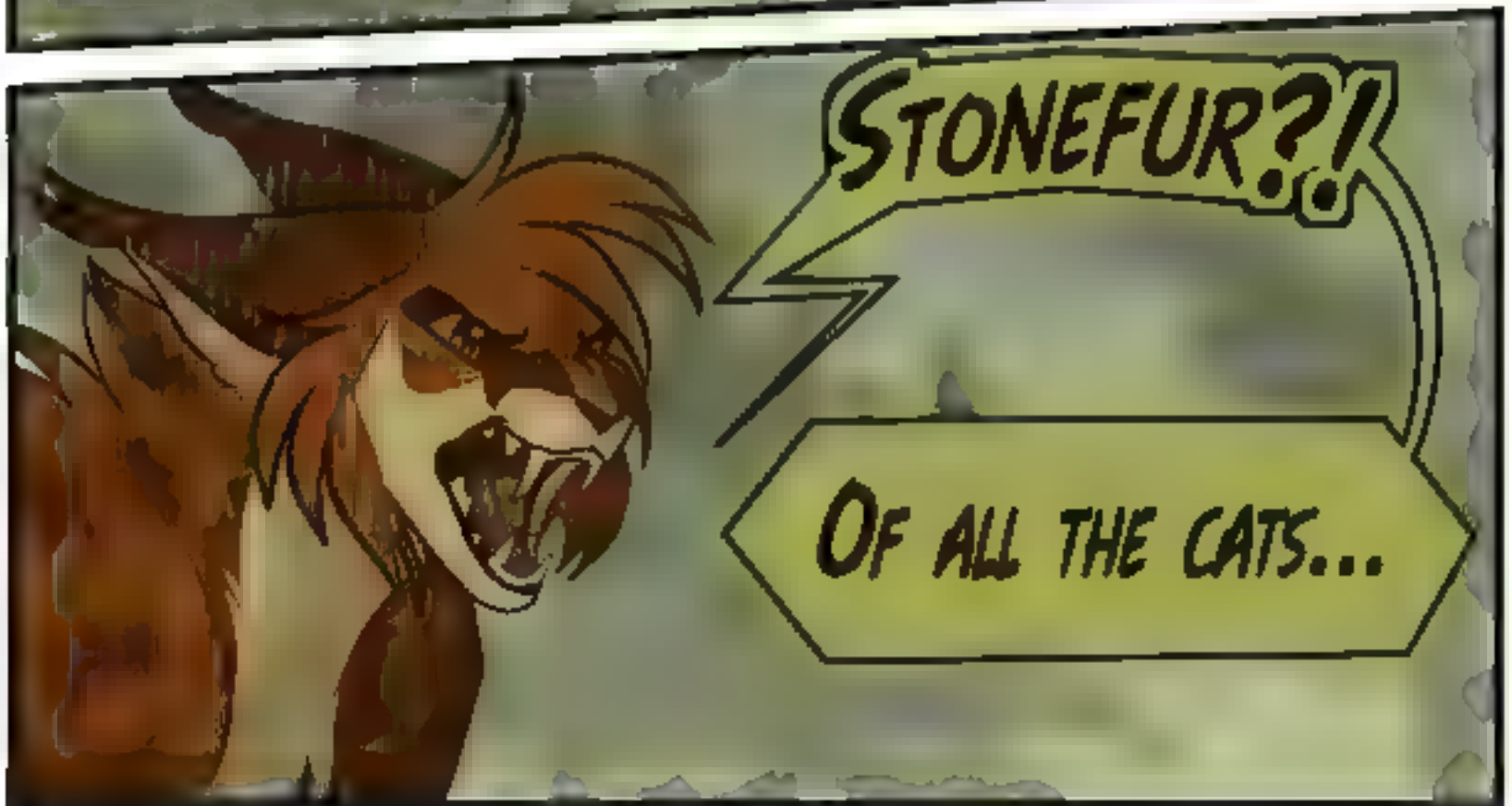


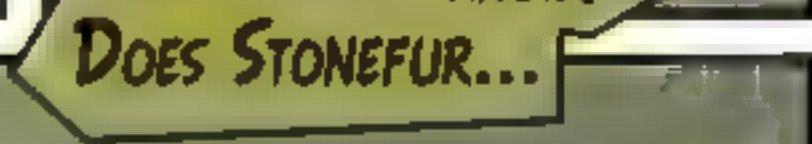
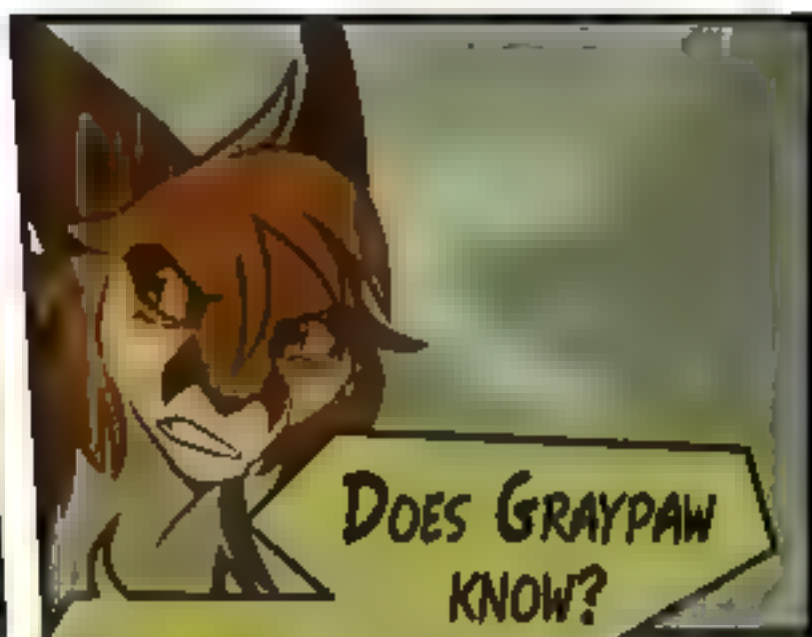


GRAYPAW'S FATHER
ISN'T A THUNDERCLAN
CAT, IS HE?

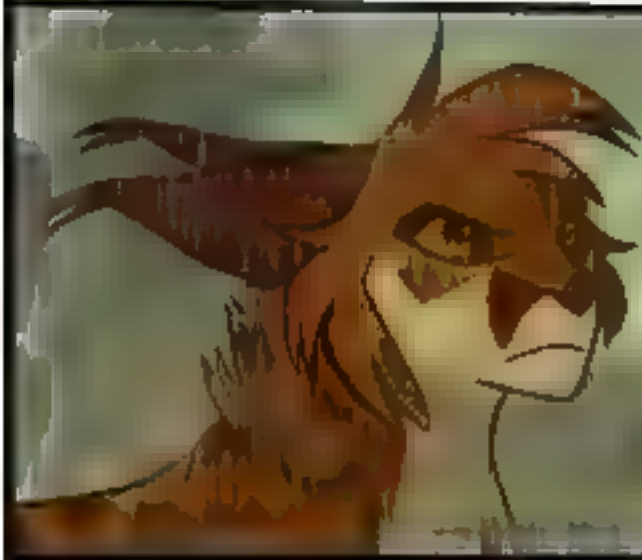


...NO.





DON'T TELL
BLUESTAR.





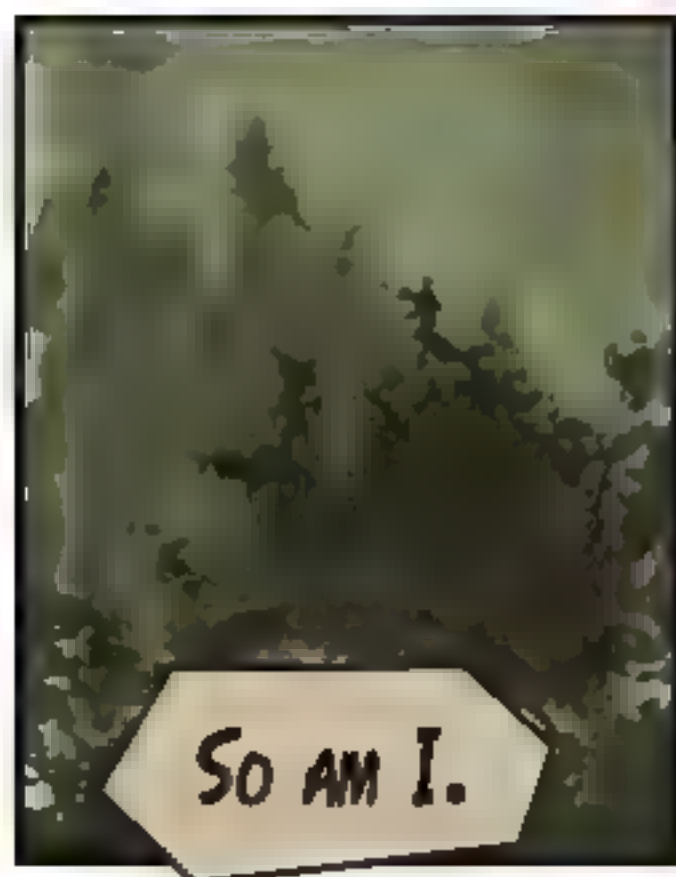
SHE DOESNT
NEED TO KNOW.

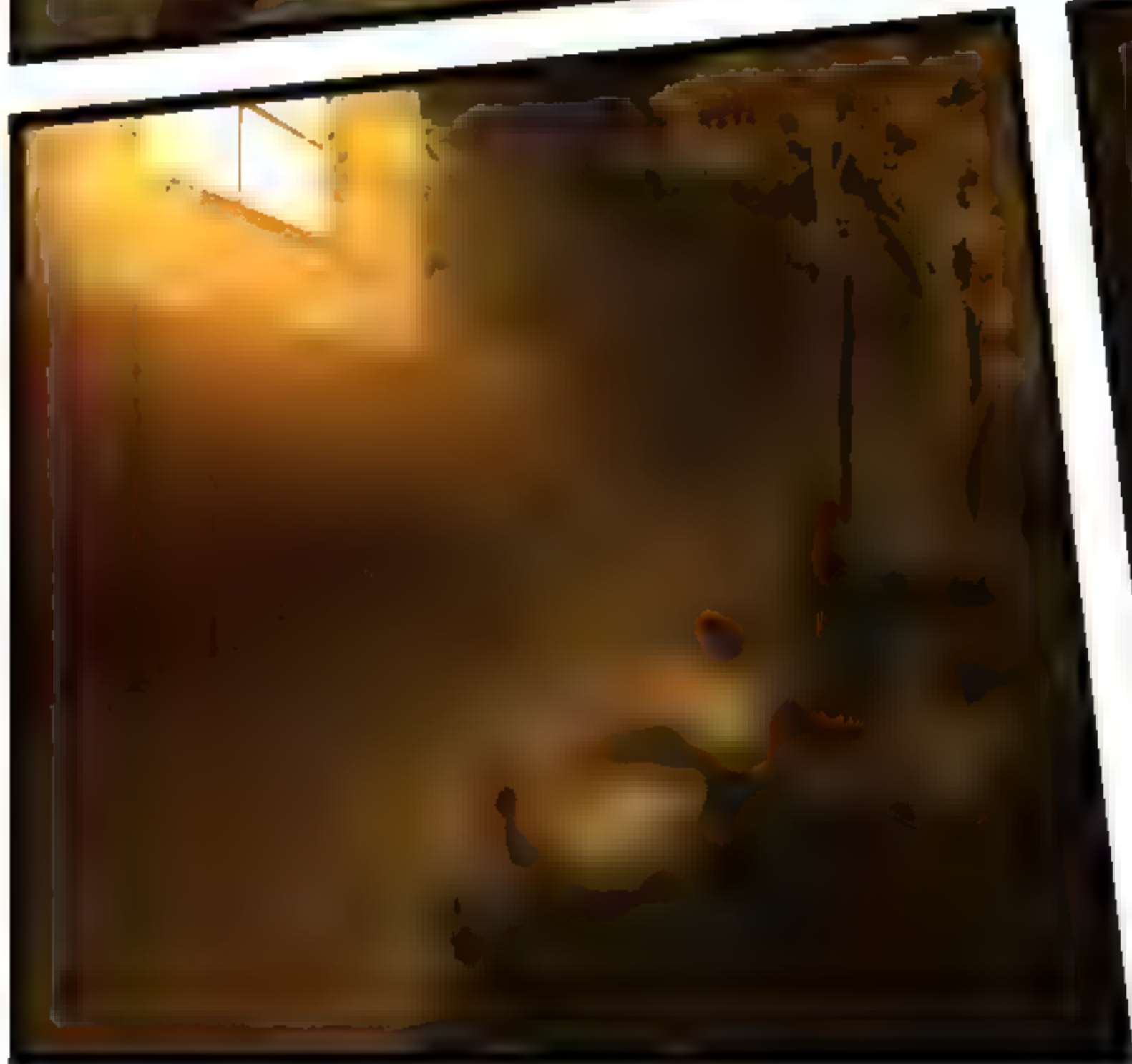
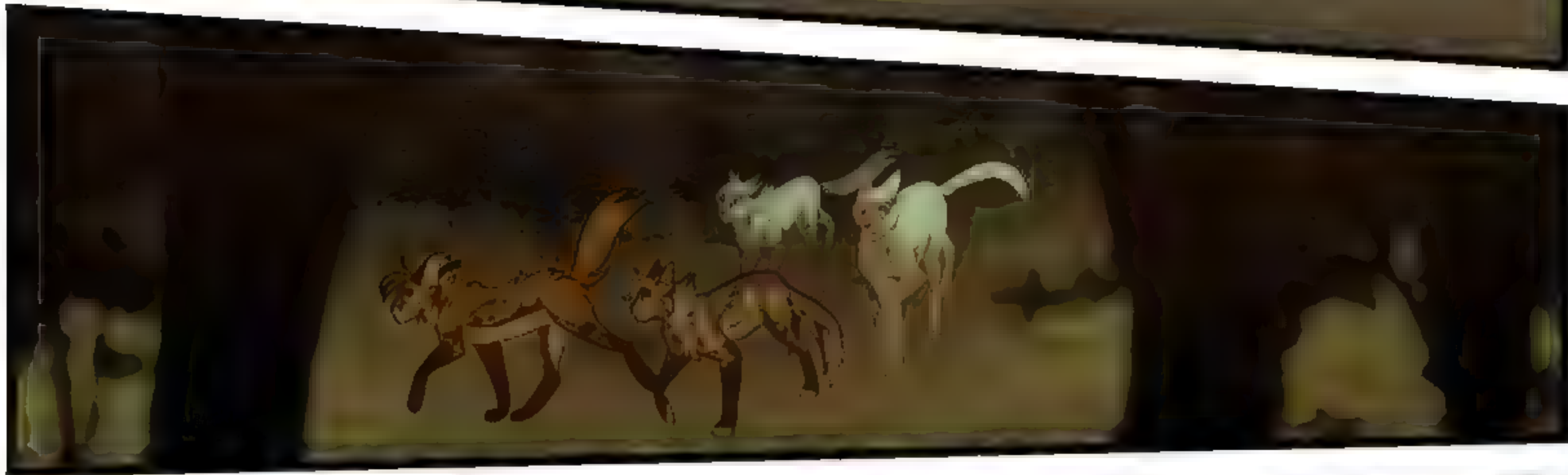


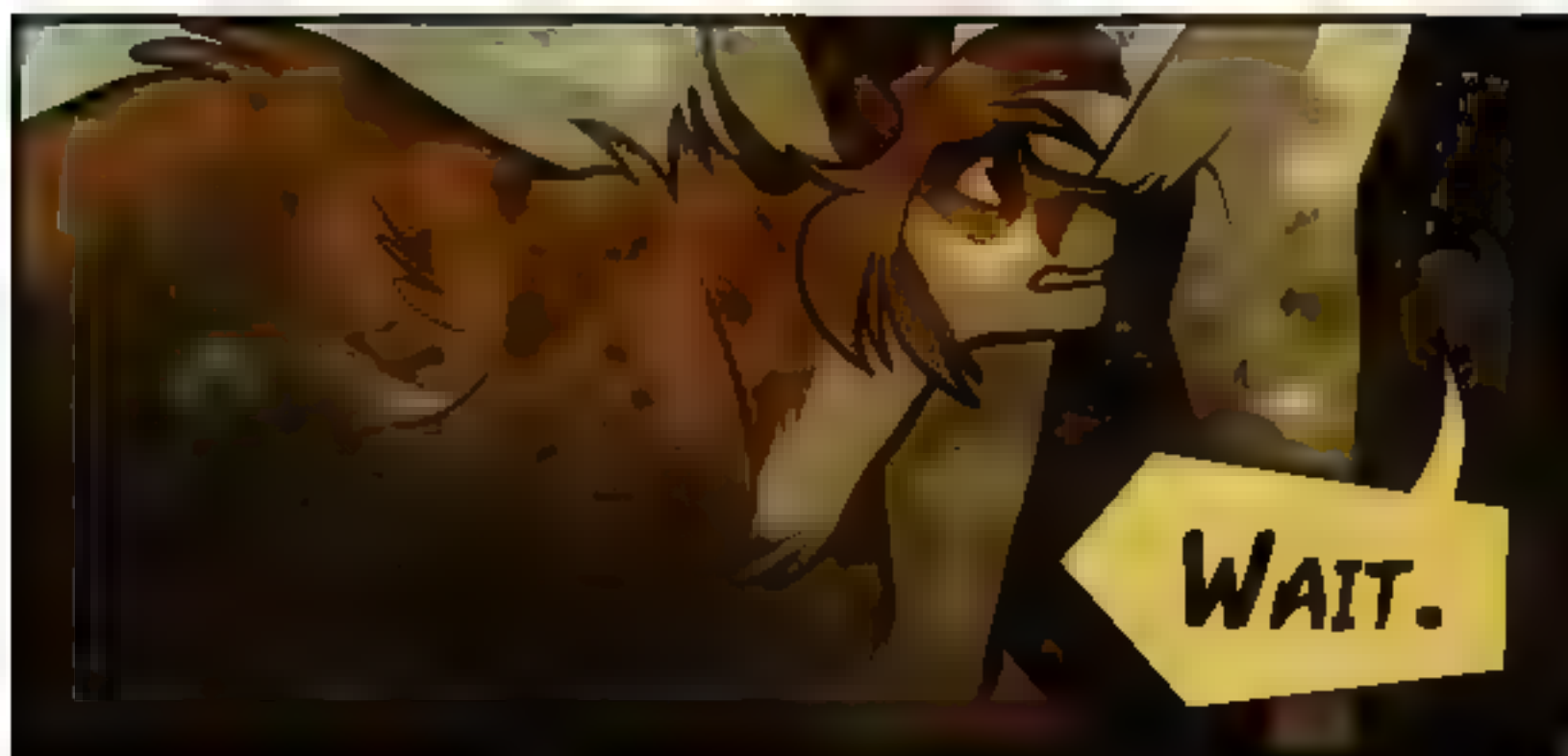
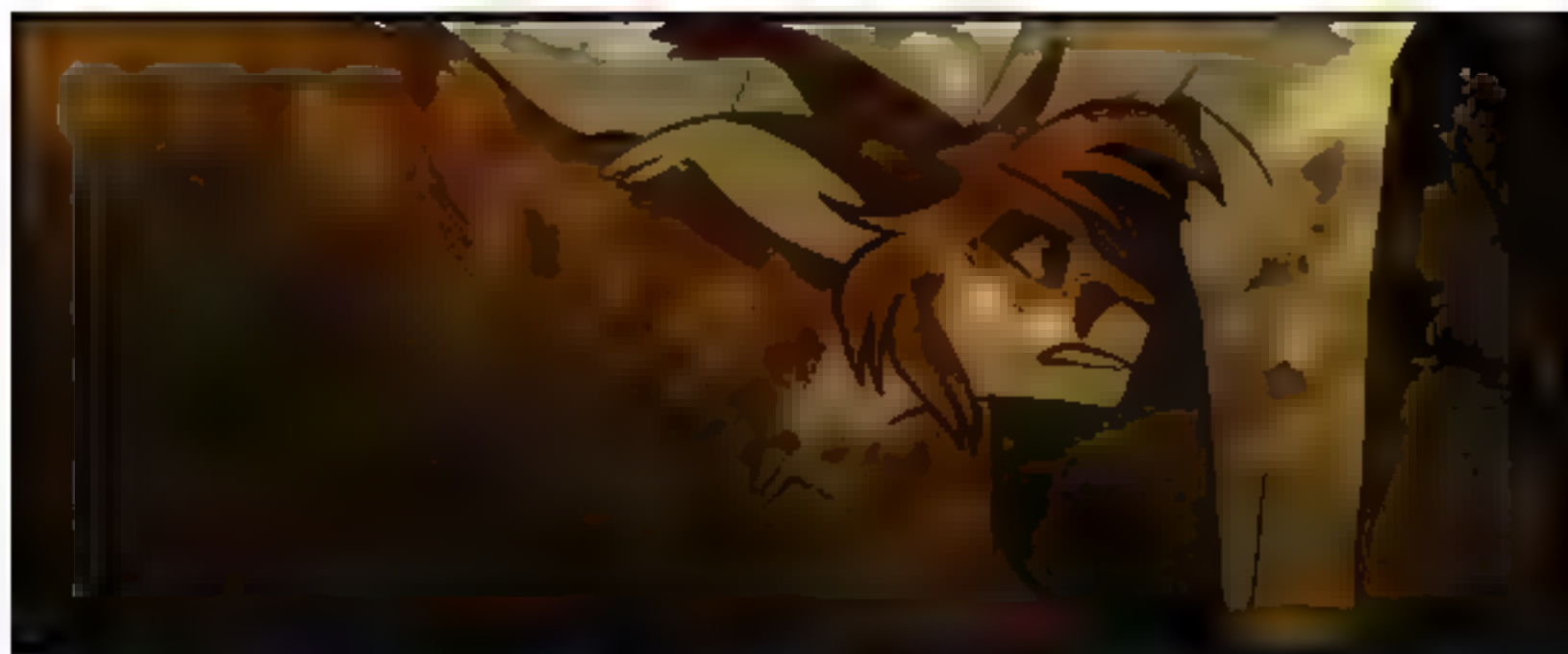
I APPRECIATE YOUR
DISCRETION, BROTHER.



...I HOPE SO.









A group of three cats with brown and tan fur are looking towards the right with expressions of concern. The cat on the left is looking slightly forward, the middle cat is looking towards the right, and the cat on the right is looking towards the right.


BLUESTAR AND
LIONHEART ARE HERE.

A close-up of a cat's face, showing its eyes and nose. The cat has a determined expression.


IF HE'S A THREAT,
THEY'LL HANDLE IT.

Two cats are shown in profile, facing each other. The cat on the left is looking towards the cat on the right, who is looking back.

BUT I SMELL
GRAYPAW, WHAT
IF HE--

A cat is shown in profile, looking towards the right. The cat has a determined expression.

THEN HE'LL GET SOME
BATTLE PRACTICE IN.

A cat is shown in profile, looking towards the right. The cat has a determined expression.

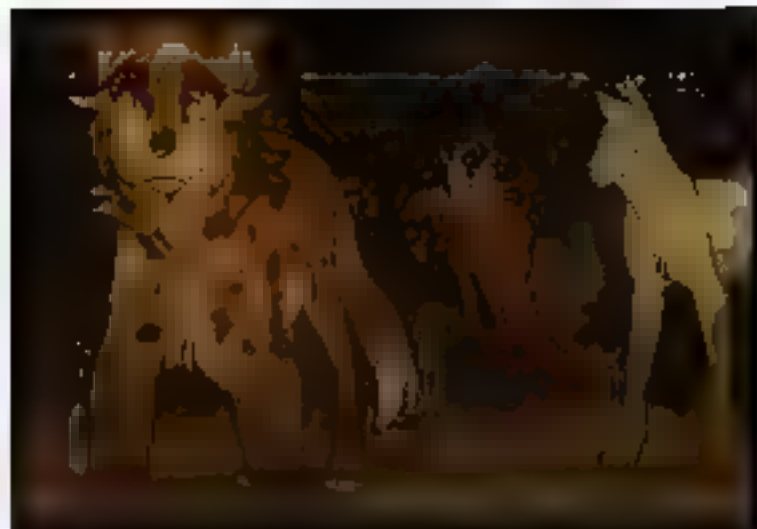
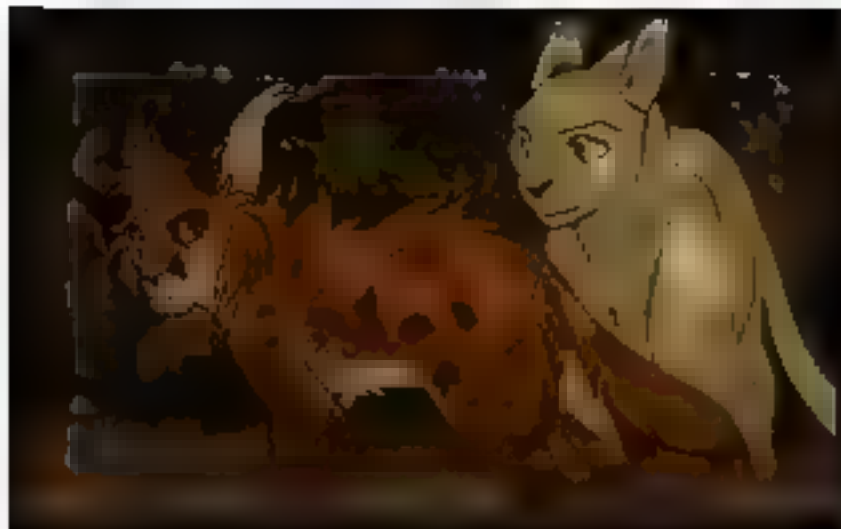
HE'S JUST
A KIT, REDTAIL.

A cat is shown in profile, looking towards the right. The cat has a determined expression.


YOUNGER EVEN
THAN SANDPAW.

A cat is shown in profile, looking towards the right. The cat has a determined expression.

LEAVE HIM BE.




THE KITTYPET?



BLUESTAR, ARE
YOU SURE?

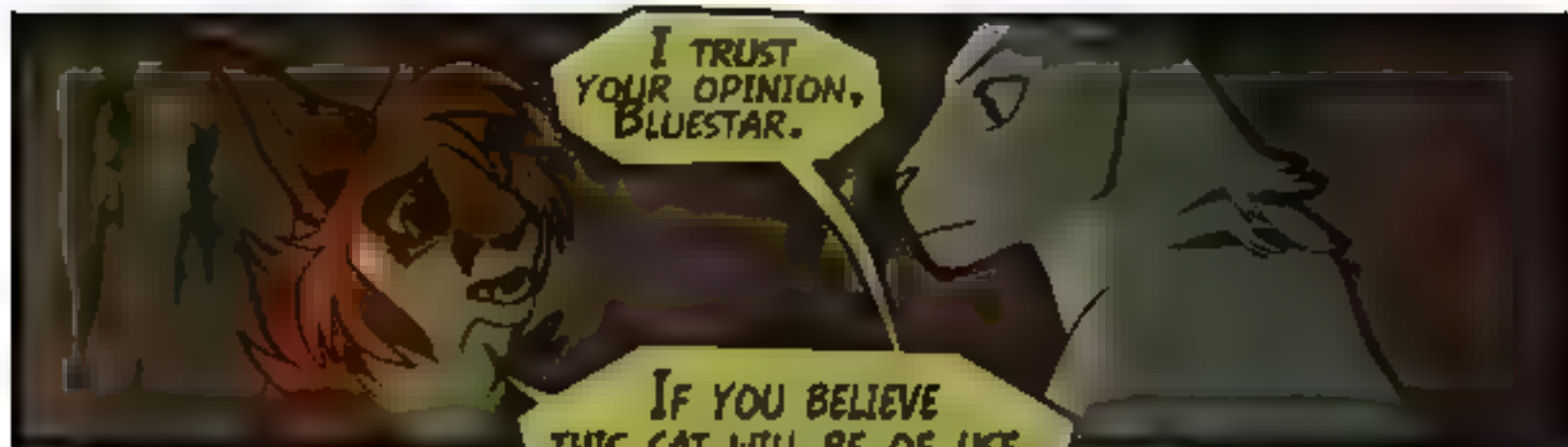
HE MAY BE JUST
ANOTHER MOUTH
TO FEED.



HE IS CAPABLE.

HE'LL BE HERE
TODAY AT SUNHIGH,
IF HE SO CHOOSES.

I TRUST YOU WILL
HELP JUDGE HIS
POTENTIAL.



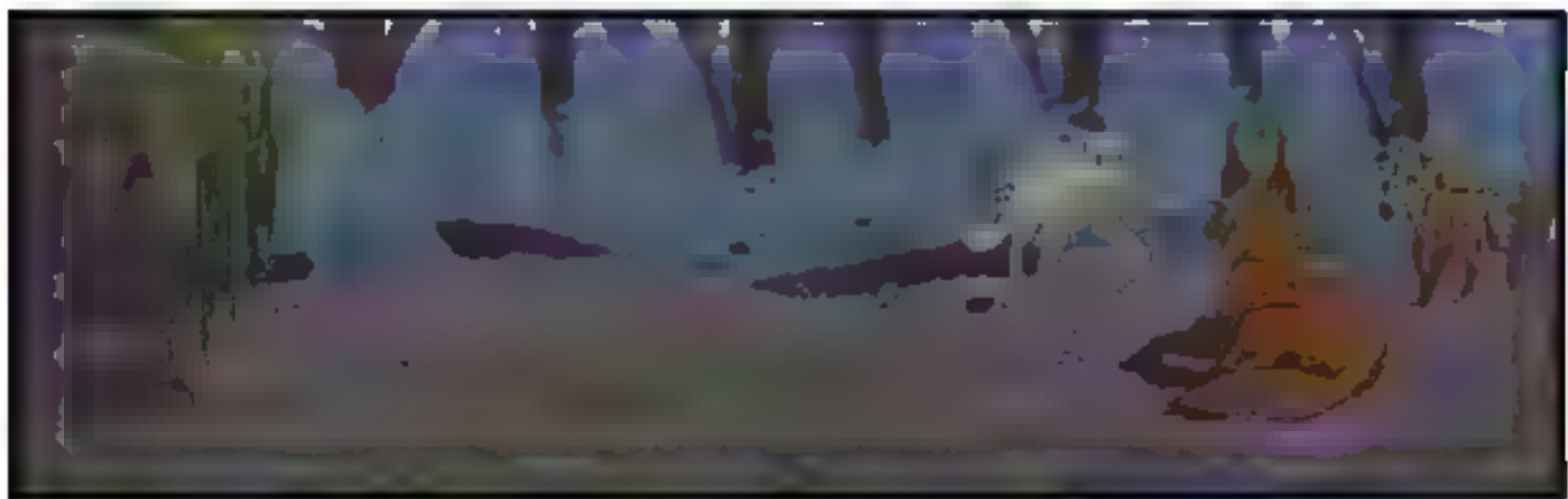
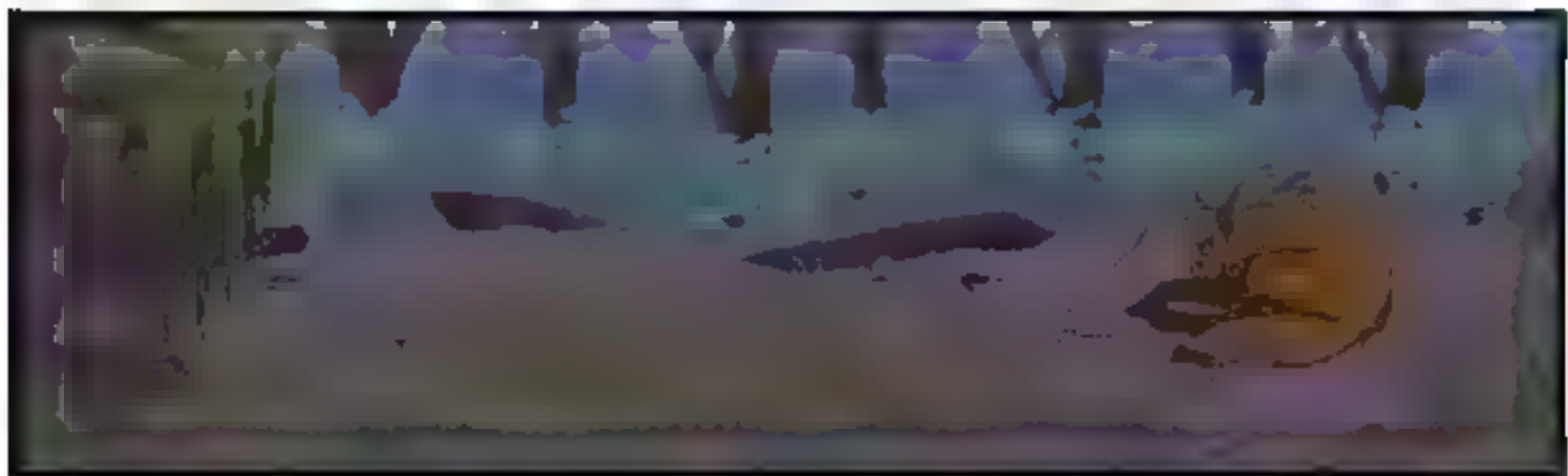
IF YOU BELIEVE
THIS CAT WILL BE OF USE,
I'M WITH YOU.




I JUST HOPE
YOU KNOW WHAT
YOU'RE DOING.




SO DO I.



A comic panel showing three anthropomorphic cats in a cave. On the left is a white cat with a blue collar. In the center is a brown cat with a red stripe on its forehead. On the right is a tan cat with a blue collar. They are all looking towards the right.


ARE YOU NERVOUS
ABOUT THE BATTLE?

OF COURSE. BUT
IT HAS TO BE DONE.

A comic panel showing the white cat from the previous panel on the left, looking towards the other two cats. The brown cat is in the center, looking back at the white cat. The tan cat is on the right, looking on.


WHITESTORM, I TRUST
YOU TO DEAL WITH THE
KITTYPET.

YES, MY
DEPUTY.

A wide comic panel showing the three cats in the cave. The white cat is on the left, the brown cat is in the center, and the tan cat is on the right. They are all looking towards the right.


I'LL ASSESS HIM MYSELF
WHEN I GET BACK.





WON'T THAT TAKE
A LOT OF WARRIORS?

NOT AT ALL. RIVERCLAN WILL BE
ARROGANT. I'M CONFIDENT
WE ONLY NEED A FEW
WARRIORS.



BUT WE'RE BRINGING
RAVENPAW.


WHAT?!

A character with long, light-colored hair and a dark, patterned tunic is shown in a forest setting. The background is dark and moody, with trees and foliage visible. The character is looking towards the right.

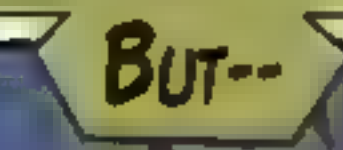
HE CAN BARELY HUNT!

A character with long, light-colored hair and a dark, patterned tunic is shown in a forest setting. The background is dark and moody, with trees and foliage visible. The character is looking towards the right.

HOW DO YOU SUPPOSE
HE WILL HANDLE BATTLE?

A character with long, light-colored hair and a dark, patterned tunic is shown in a forest setting. The background is dark and moody, with trees and foliage visible. The character is looking towards the right.


I HOPE HE WON'T
HAVE TO GET INVOLVED.

A character with long, light-colored hair and a dark, patterned tunic is shown in a forest setting. The background is dark and moody, with trees and foliage visible. The character is looking towards the right.

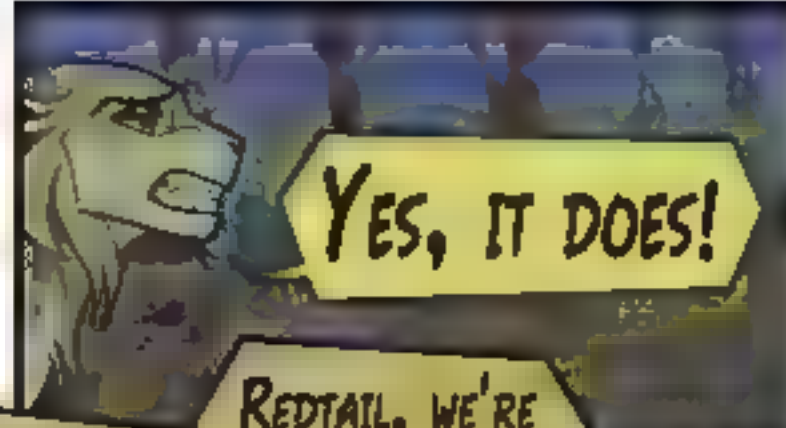
BUT--

Two characters are shown in a forest setting. The character on the left has long, light-colored hair and a dark, patterned tunic. The character on the right has long, light-colored hair and a dark, patterned tunic. They are both looking towards the right. The background is dark and moody, with trees and foliage visible.


WHAT ABOUT US?



THIS CONVERSATION
DOES NOT CONCERN YOU.



YES, IT DOES!




REDTAIL, WE'RE
WE CAN DO IT, READY FOR THIS.
WE CAN HELP!

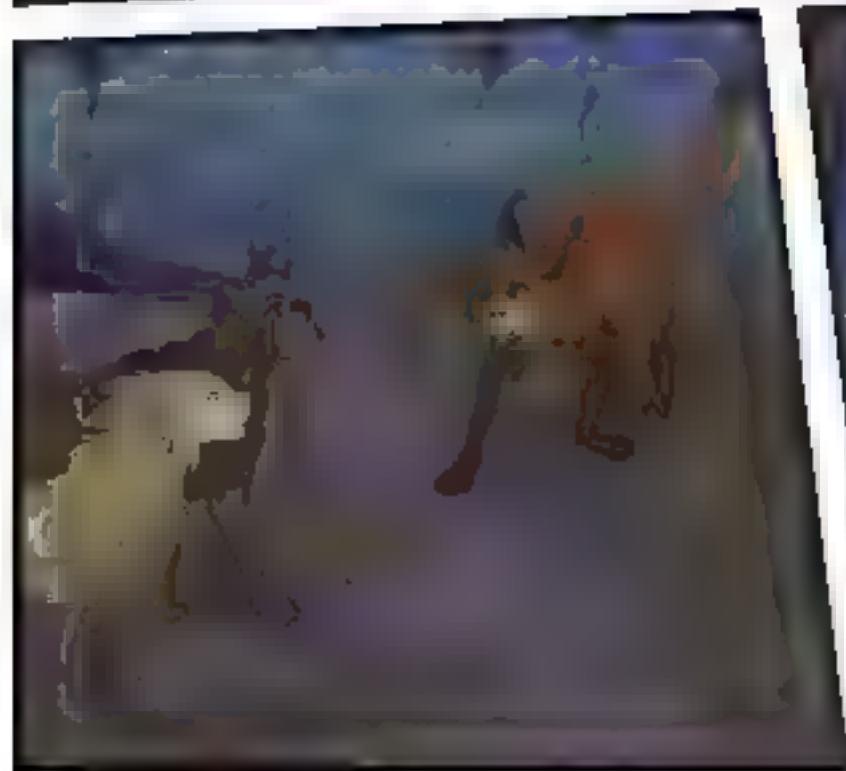
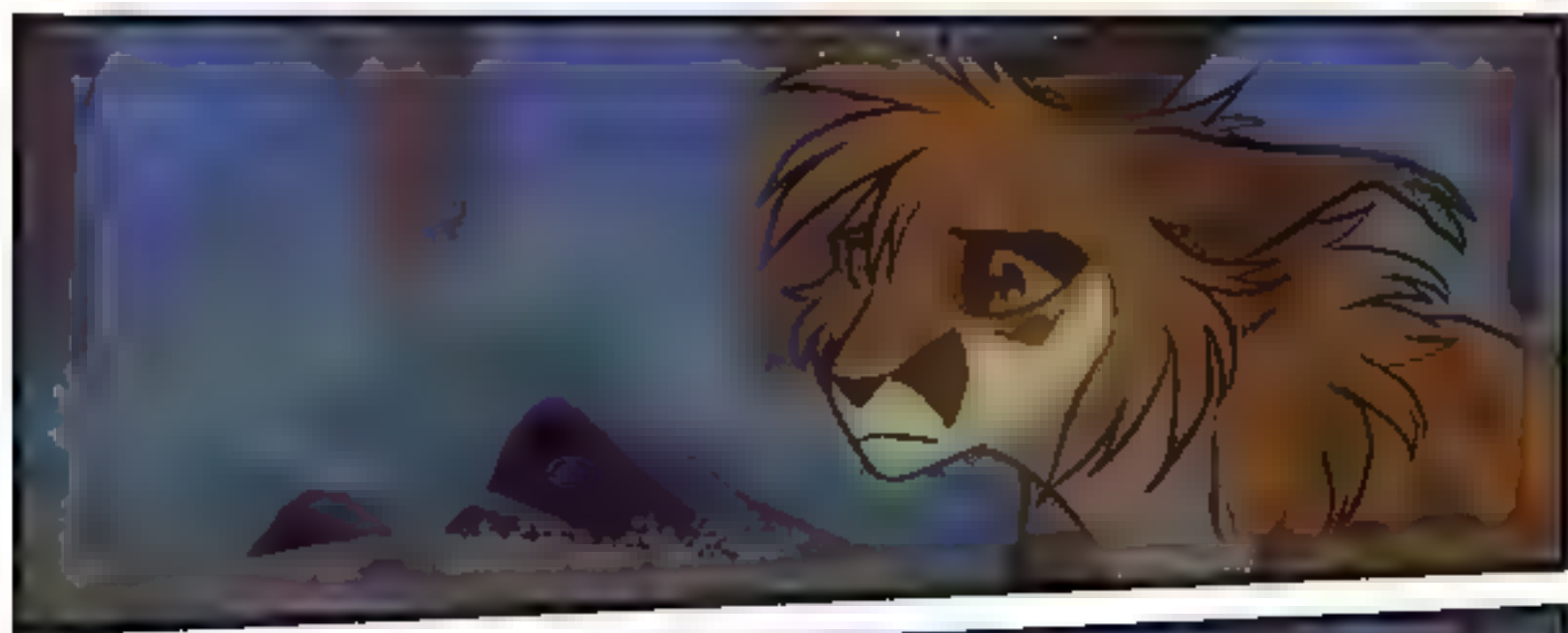
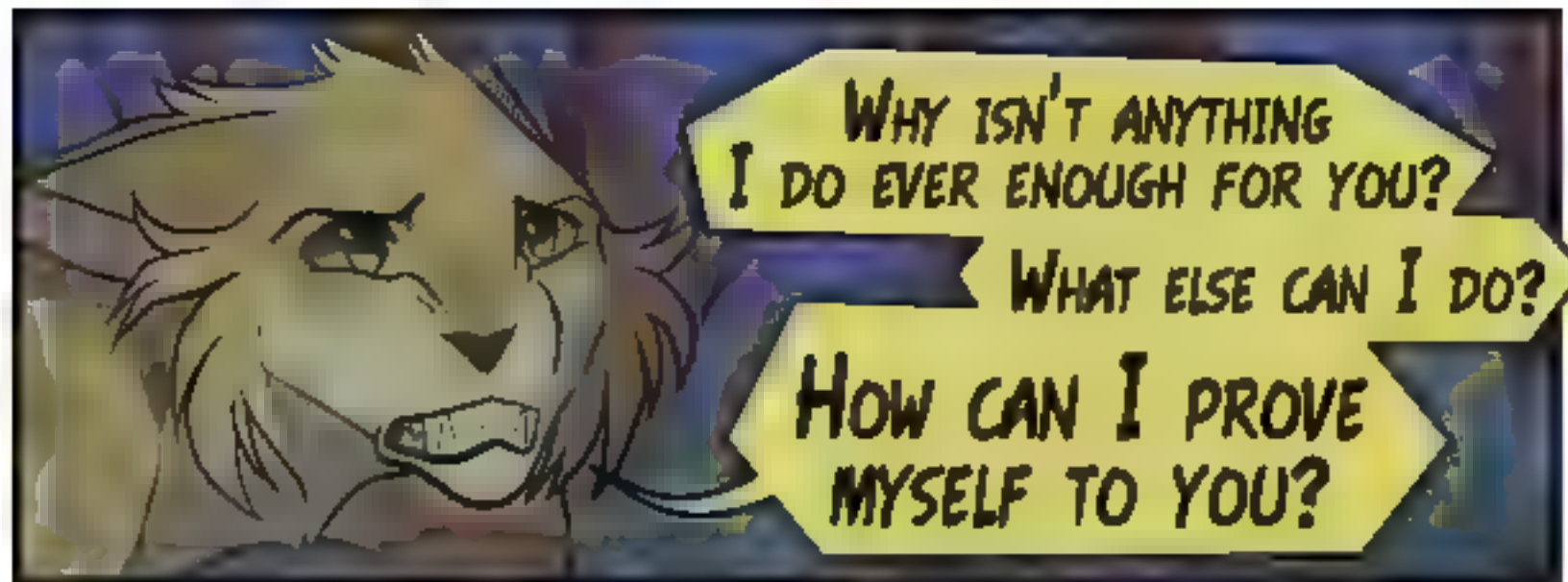
IT ISN'T
ABOUT THAT.

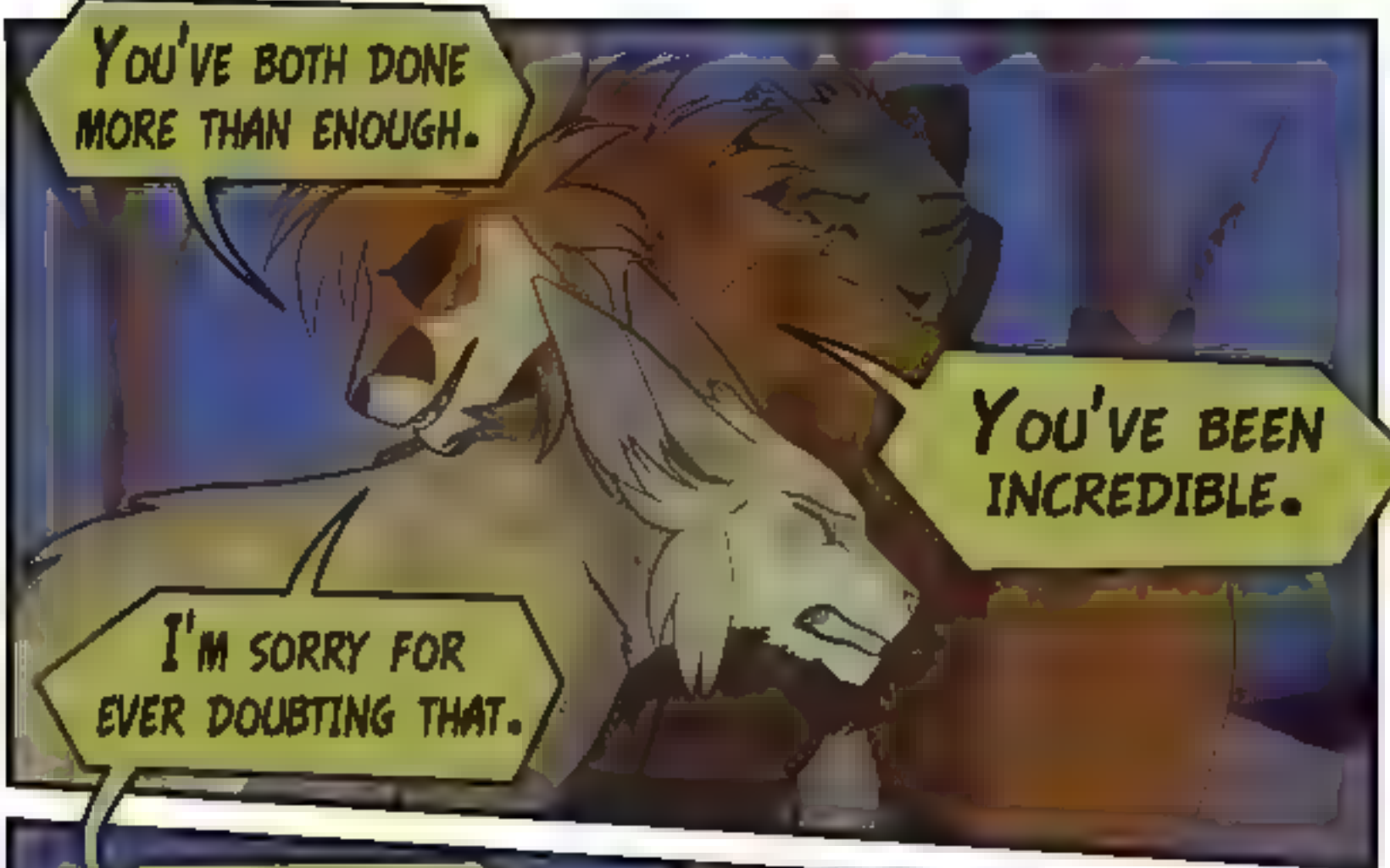
I NEED YOU
AT CAMP IN CASE--

IN CASE
WHAT?!



THE OTHER CLANS
WON'T ATTACK OUR CAMP!






YOU'VE BOTH DONE
MORE THAN ENOUGH.

YOU'VE BEEN
INCREDIBLE.


I'M SORRY FOR
EVER DOUBTING THAT.



YOU'VE MORE THAN
EARNED YOUR RIGHT TO THE
NEXT GATHERING.


I DON'T WANT TO
GO TO THE GATHERING!

I WANT TO HELP YOU!



YOU'RE THE BEST APPRENTICES
A DEPUTY COULD ASK FOR.

BUT I CAN'T LET YOU DIE.





RAVENPAW IS COMING BECAUSE
HE'S THE FASTEST. HE WILL BE OUR
MESSENGER IF WE NEED IT.

YOU'LL SEE BATTLE EVENTUALLY.
YOU NEED TO BE READY TO FIGHT,
EVEN DIE, FOR YOUR CLAN.


YOUR COURAGE AND
SPIRIT WILL BE NEEDED IN
SERVICE TO YOUR CLAN.

BUT NOT TODAY.







NO MATTER WHAT
HAPPENS TODAY



MAKE YOUR
CLAN PROUD.



STARCLAN KEEP
THEM SAFE.




I HAVE TO PICK
UP THE KITTYPET WITH
LIONHEART.



DON'T DIE
ON ME OUT THERE.

I DON'T INTEND TO.



I'LL SEE YOU
AFTER THE BATTLE.

STARCLAN LIGHT YOUR
PATH, REDTAIL.



TAKE THE LEAD,
TIGERCLAW.



I DID NOT BRING
YOU TO QUESTION YOUR
LOYALTIES.

I KNOW.

I NEED YOUR HELP.


YOU ARE THE BACK UP.

WE PROBABLY WON'T
NEED YOU, BUT IF WE DO...

I UNDERSTAND.


BE SAFE, BROTHER.

I WILL BE.




ARE YOU READY?

I THINK SO.

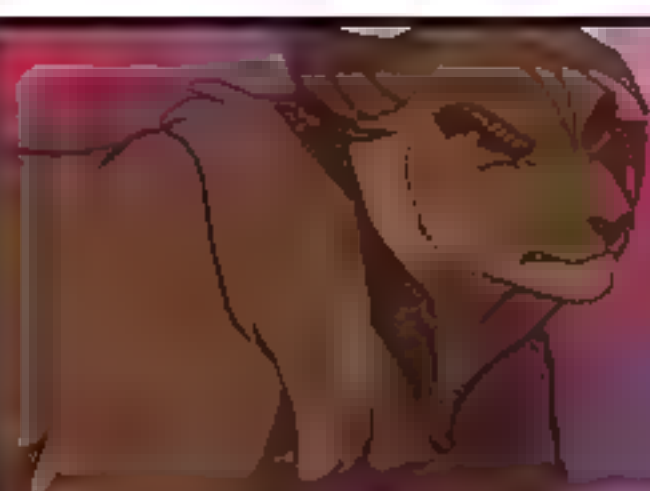


THEN LET'S GO.






THIS IS YOUR
LAST CHANCE.



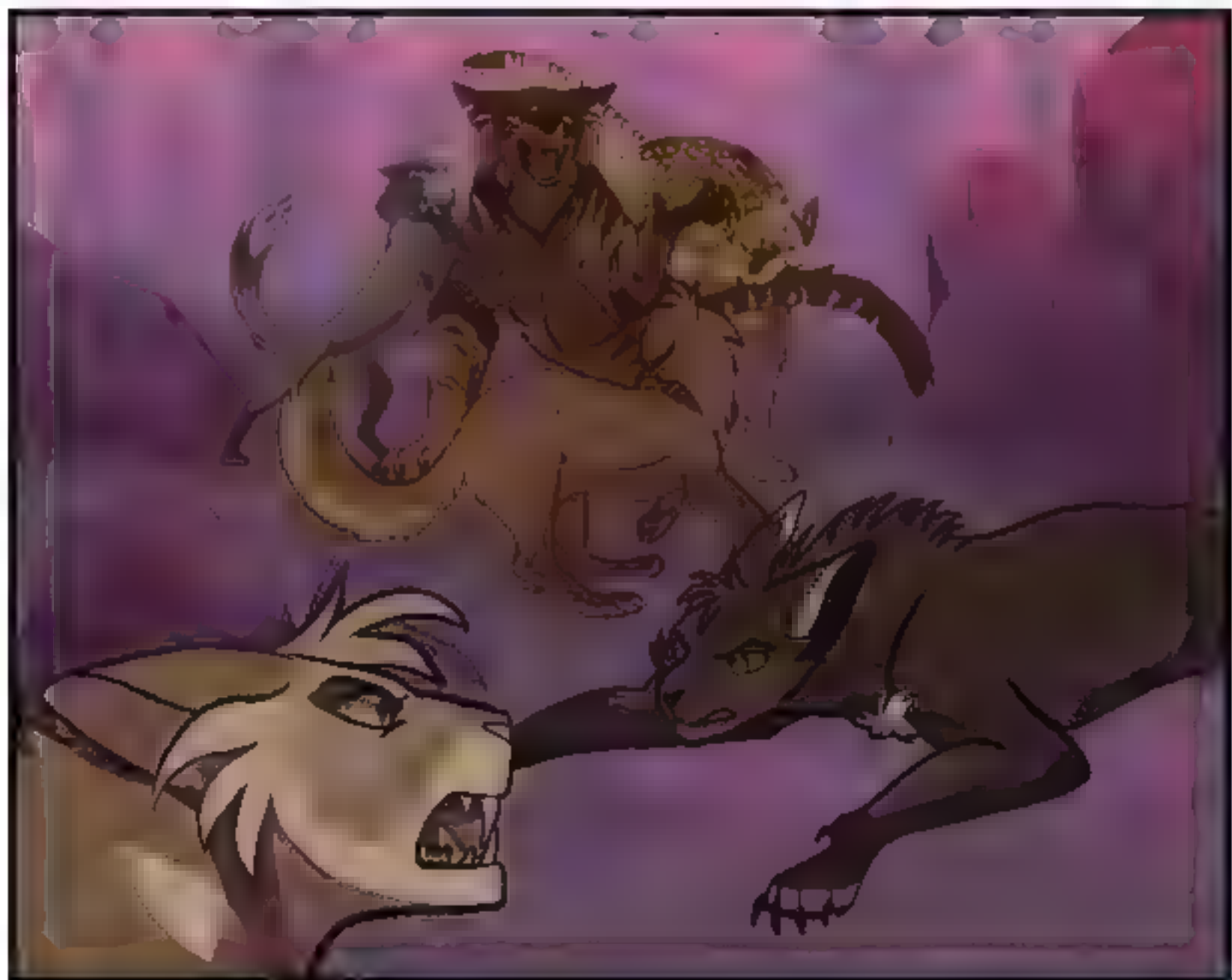
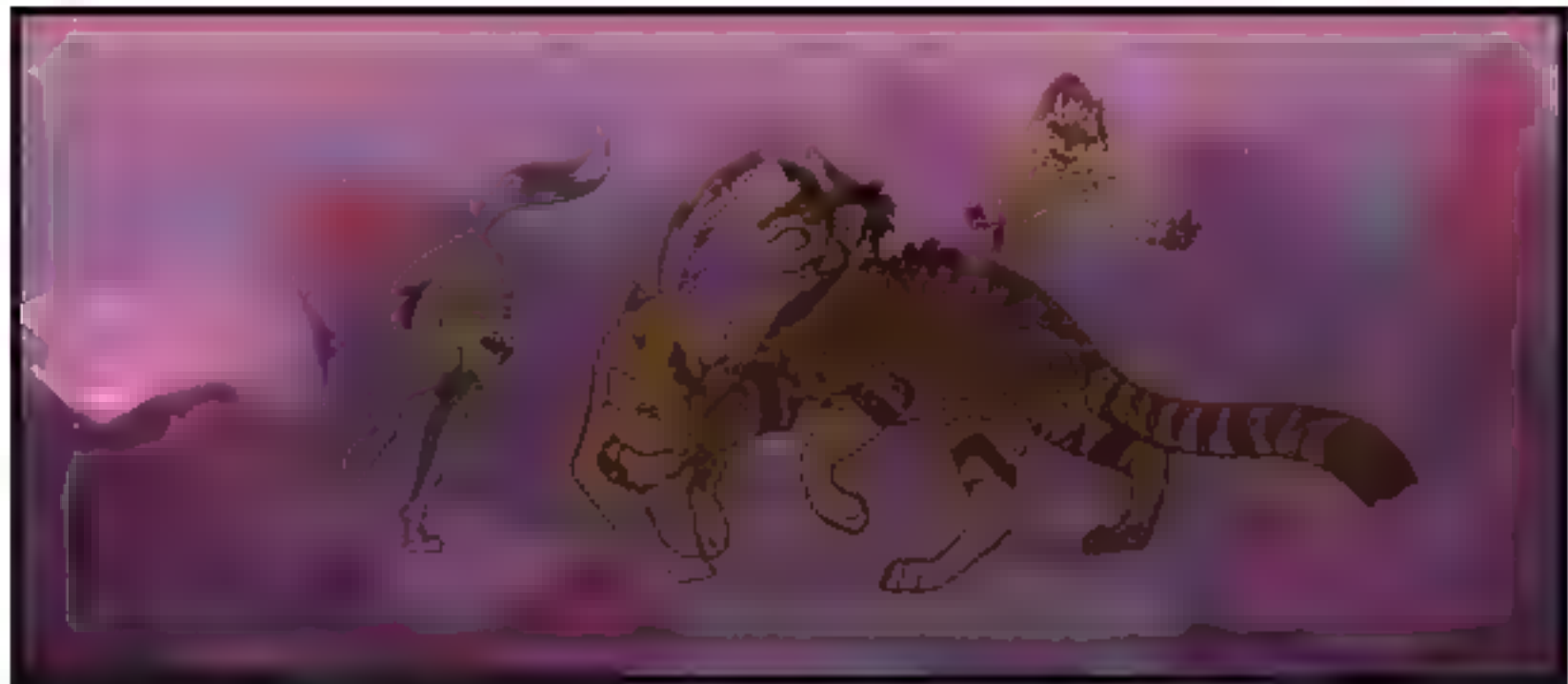
THE NEXT RIVERCLAN
WARRIOR FOUND ON THUNDERCLAN
TERRITORY WILL BE KILLED.

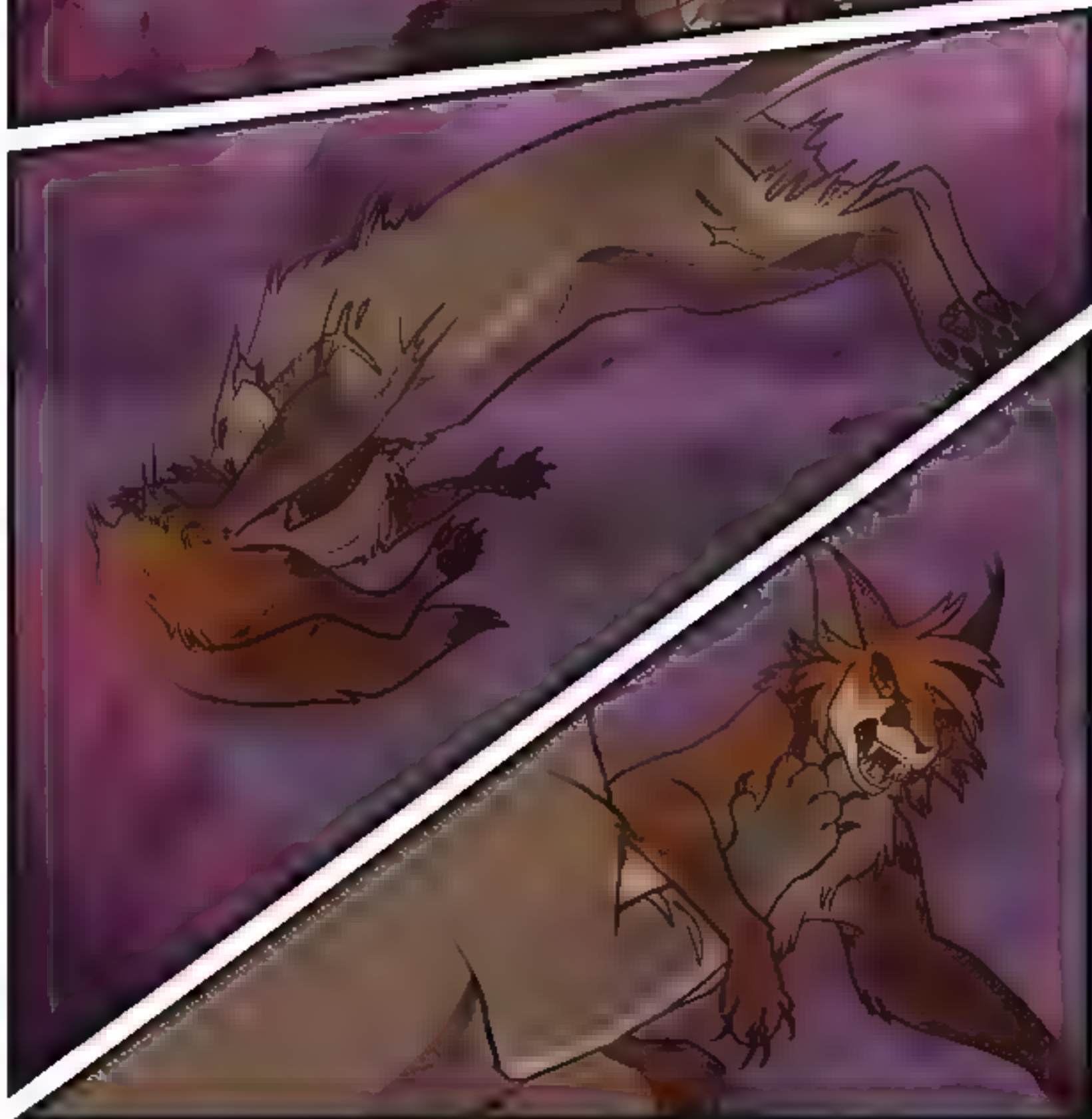


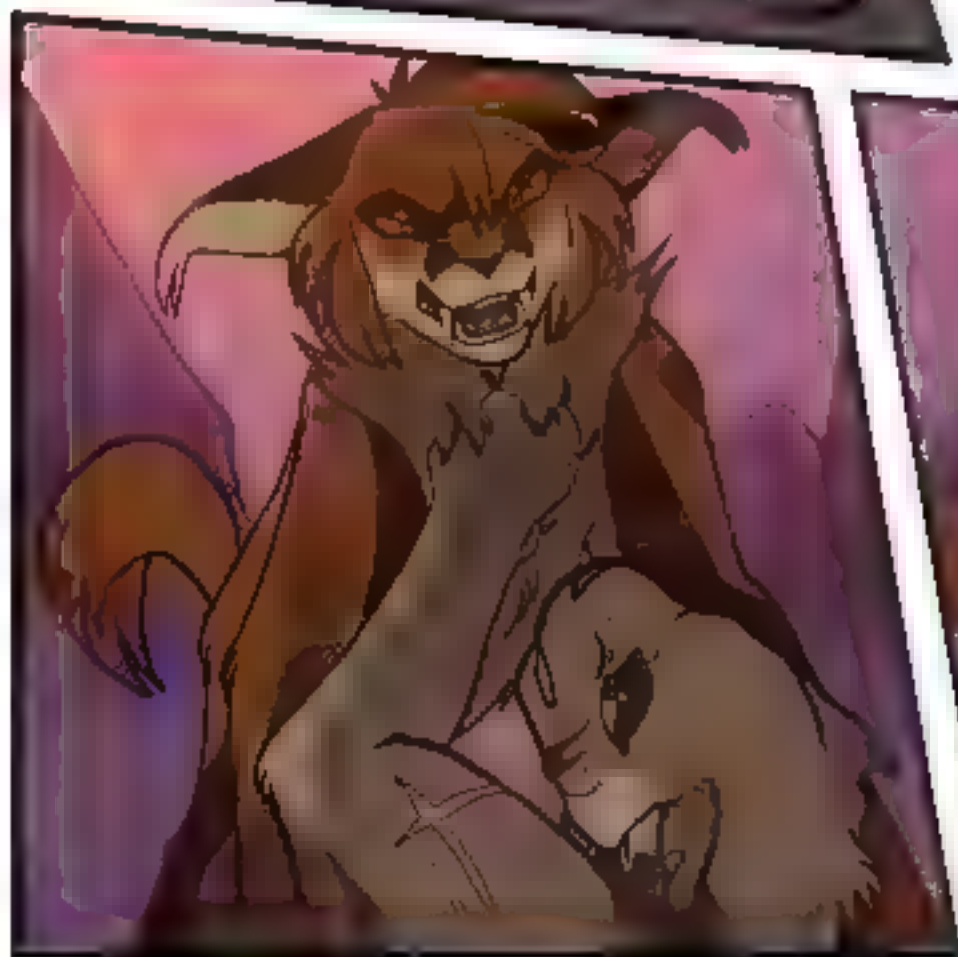
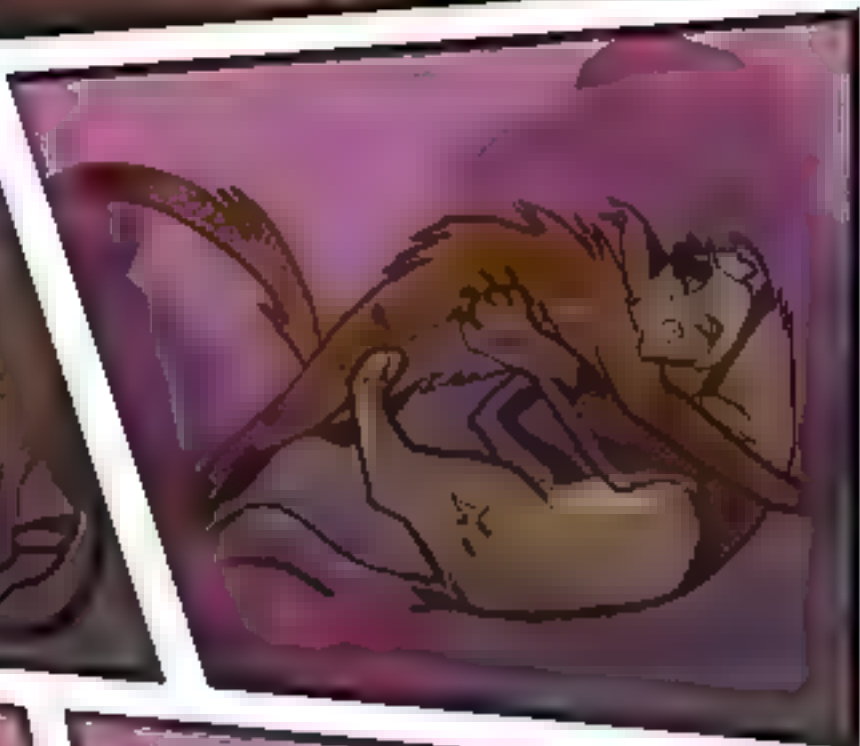
WILL YOU SURRENDER
SUNNINGROCKS WILLINGLY?



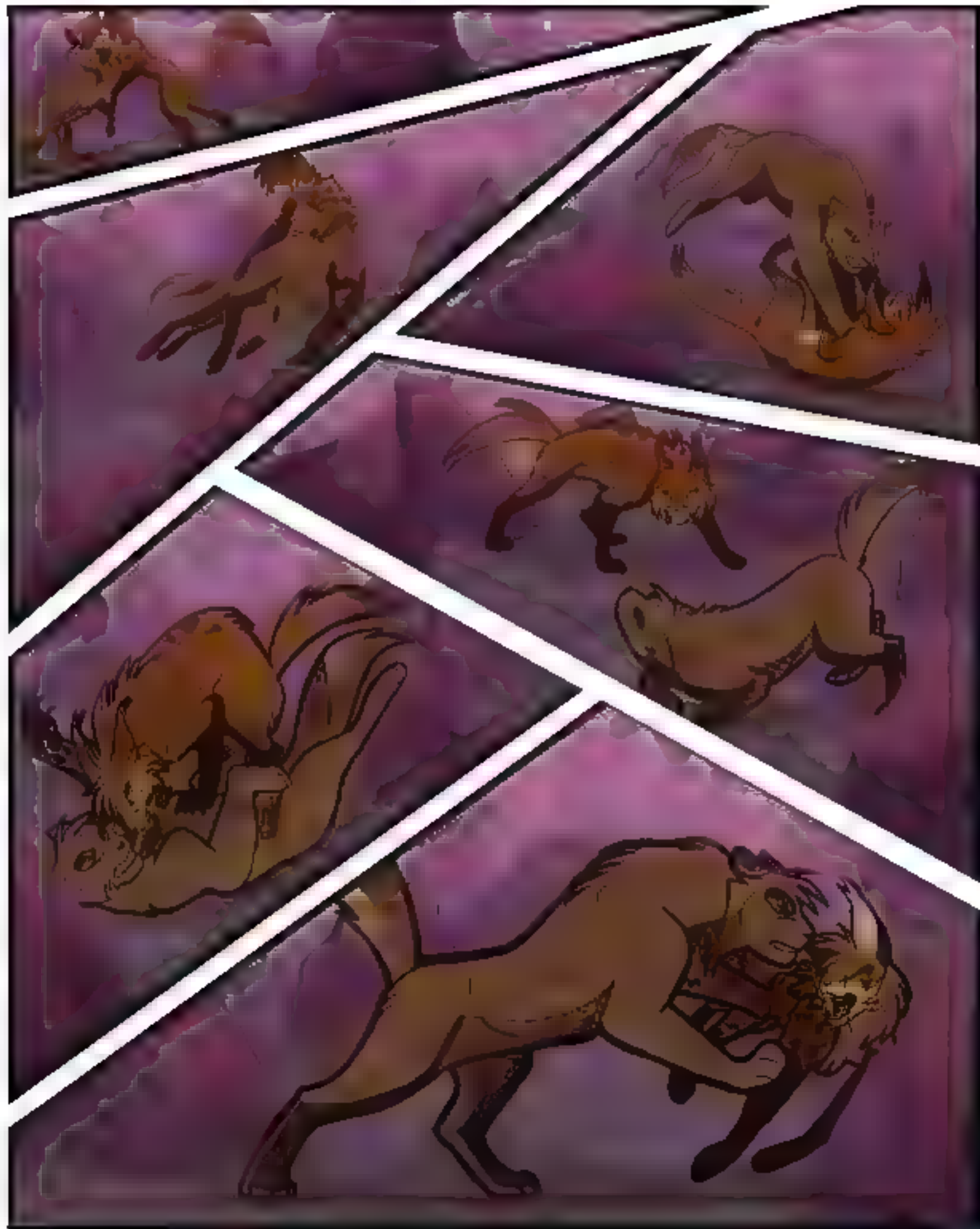
NEVER.

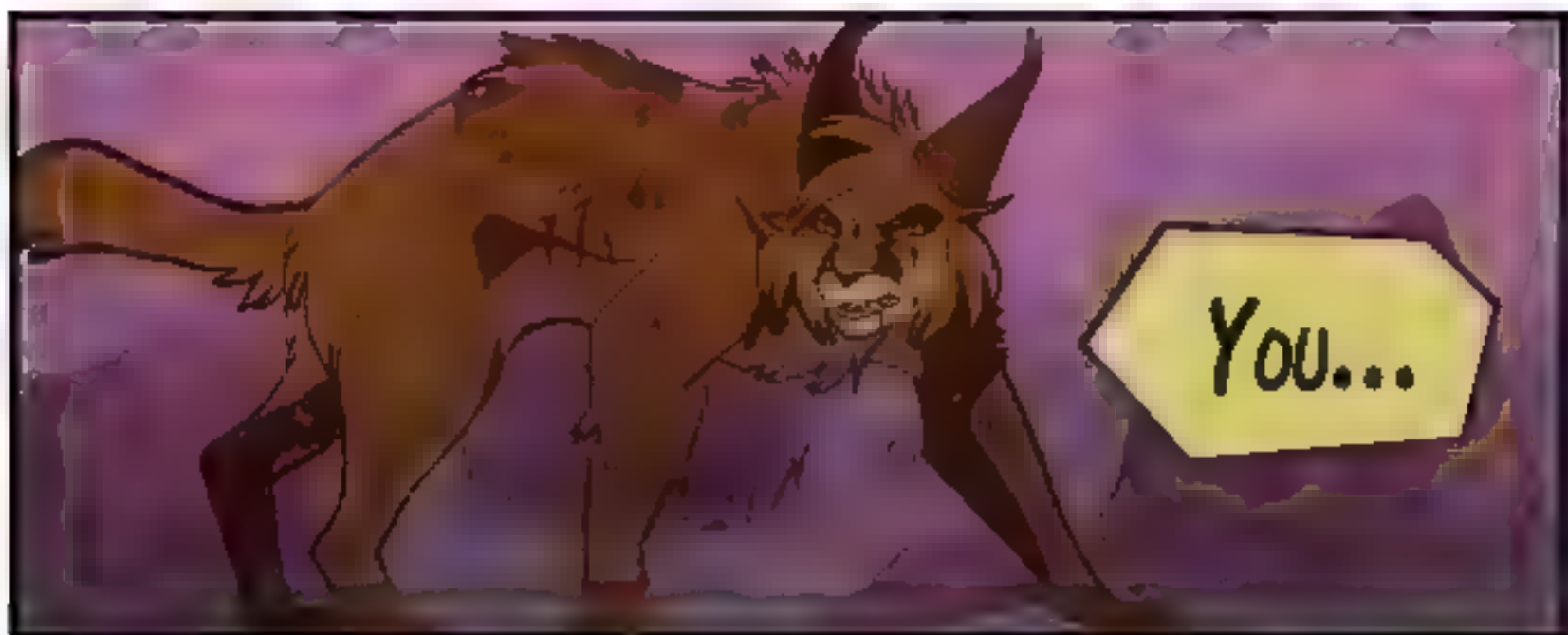















YOU KNOW...




YOU KNOW NO
THUNDERCLAN CAT SHOULD
ATTACK THAT WARRIOR!

HOW COULD YOU?!

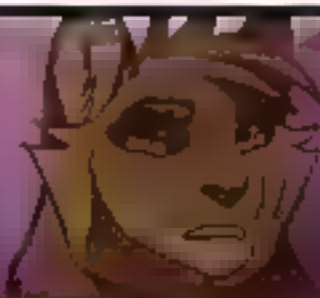


I HAVE TO PROTECT
MY CLAN, OAKHEART.
I CAN'T MAKE AN
EXCEPTION FOR YOUR
SAKE.

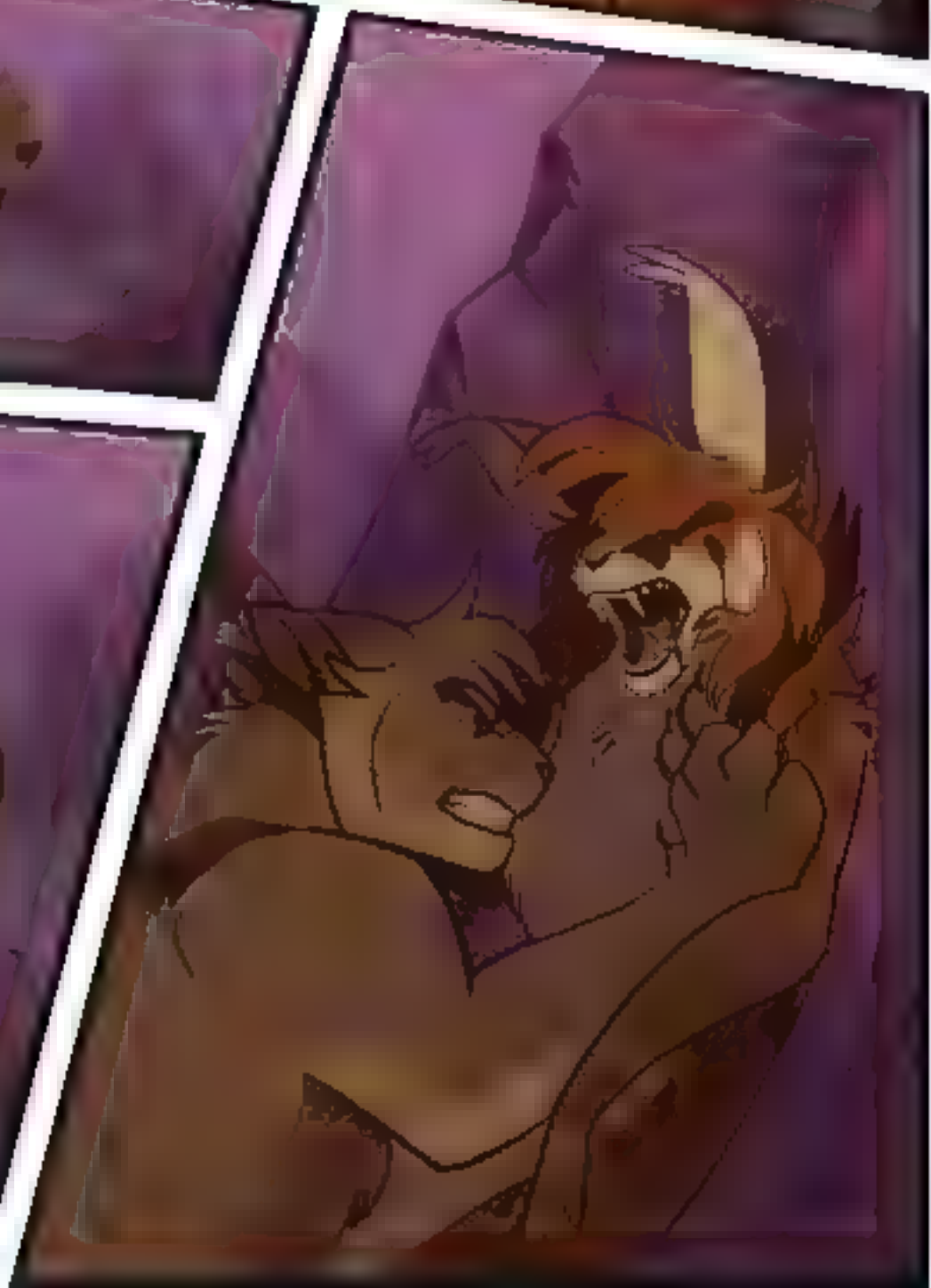
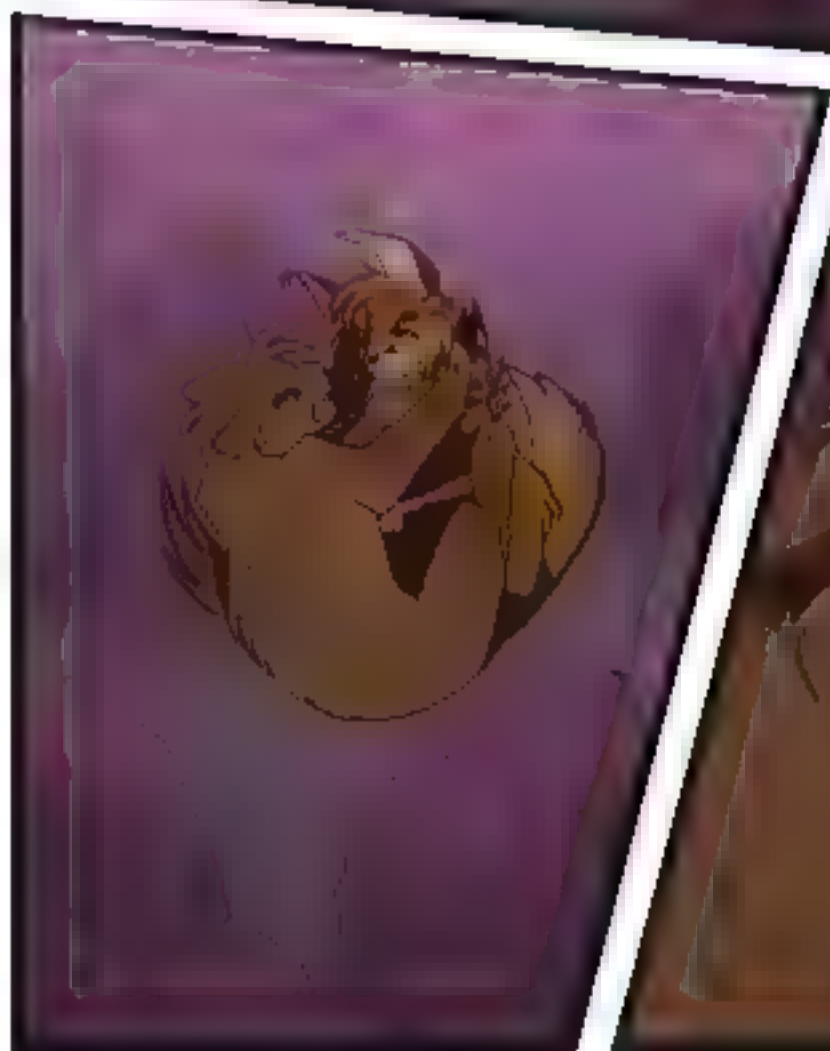
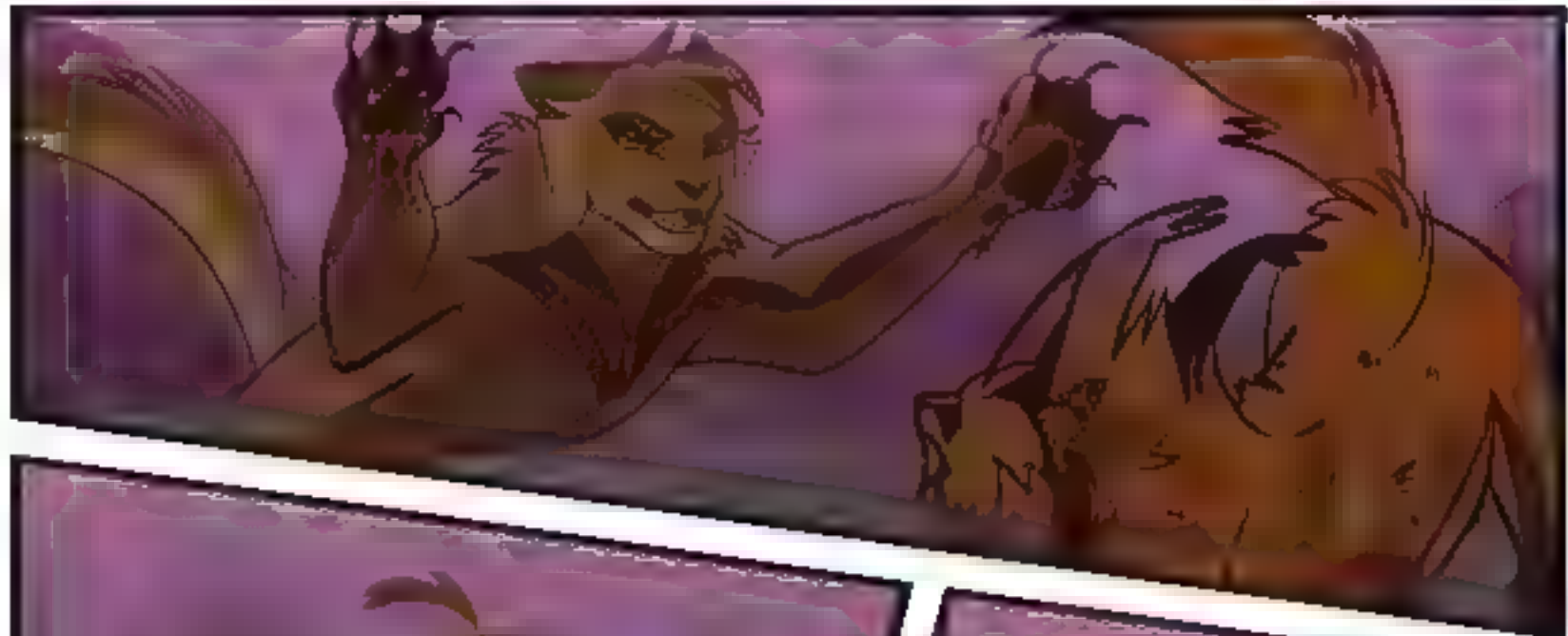


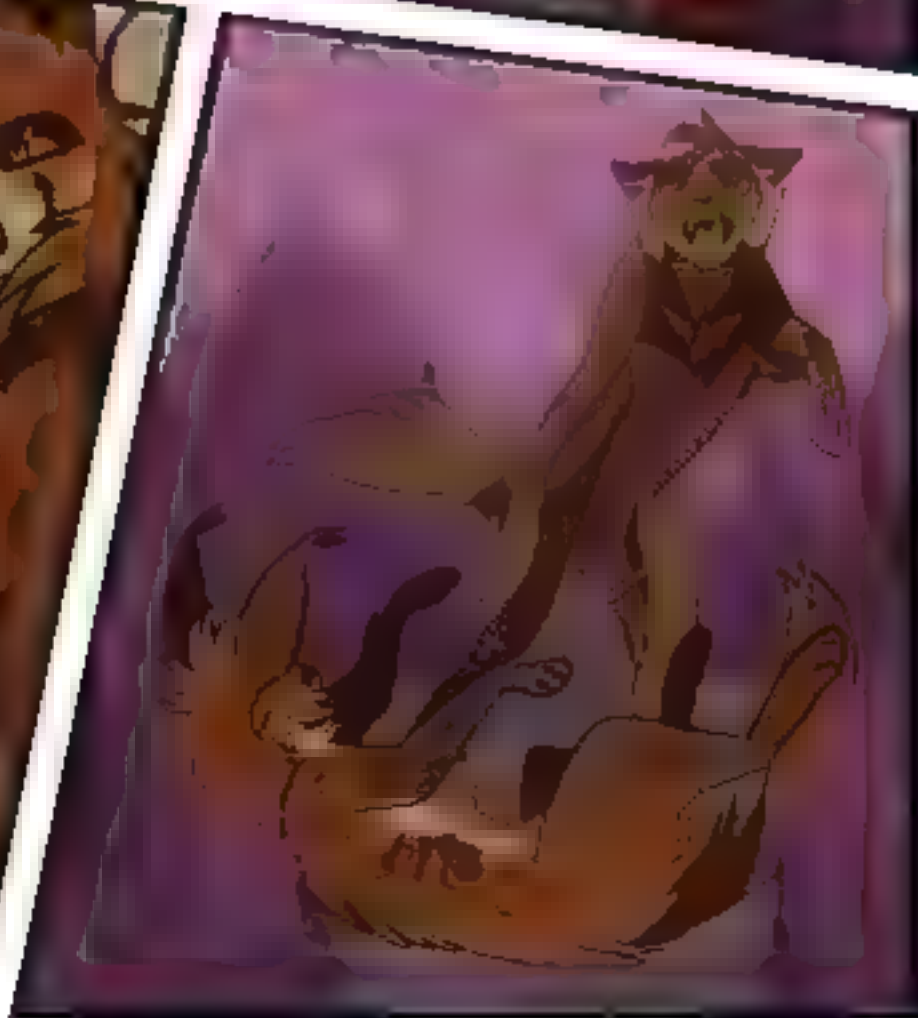
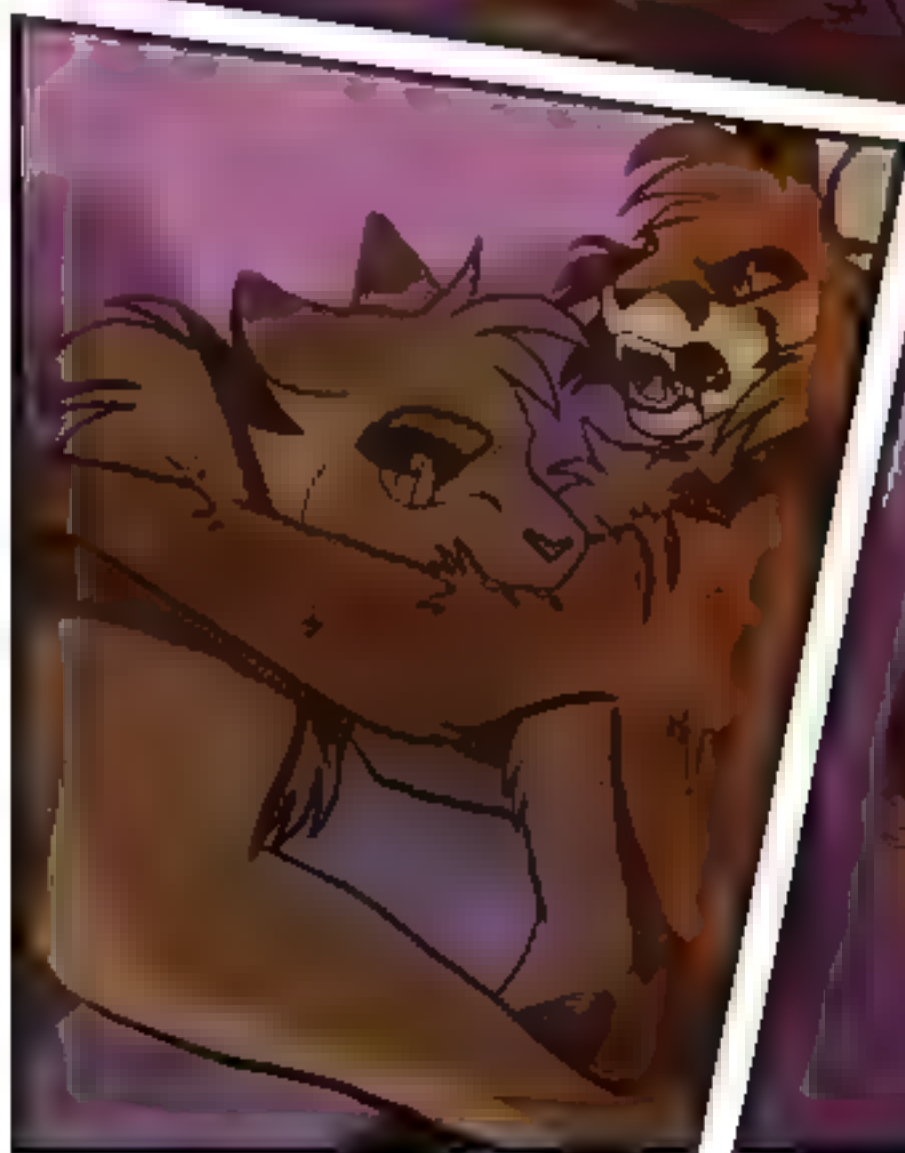
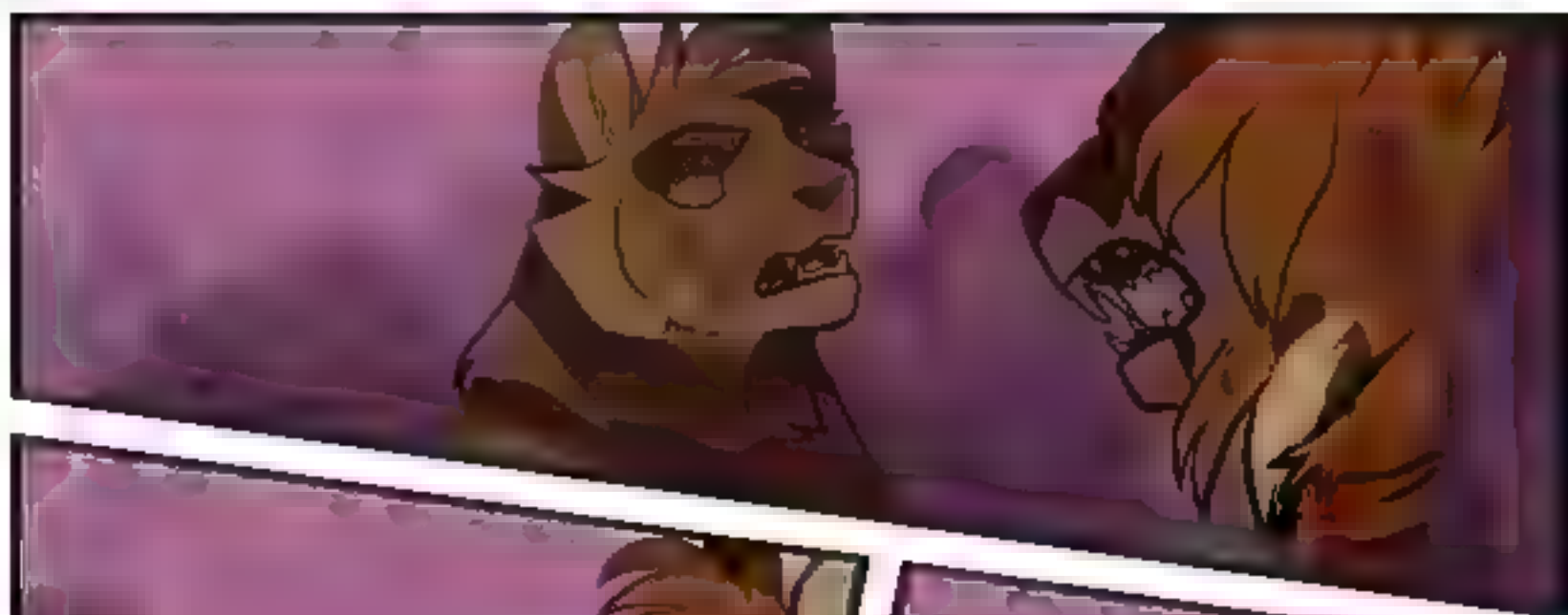


BUT...

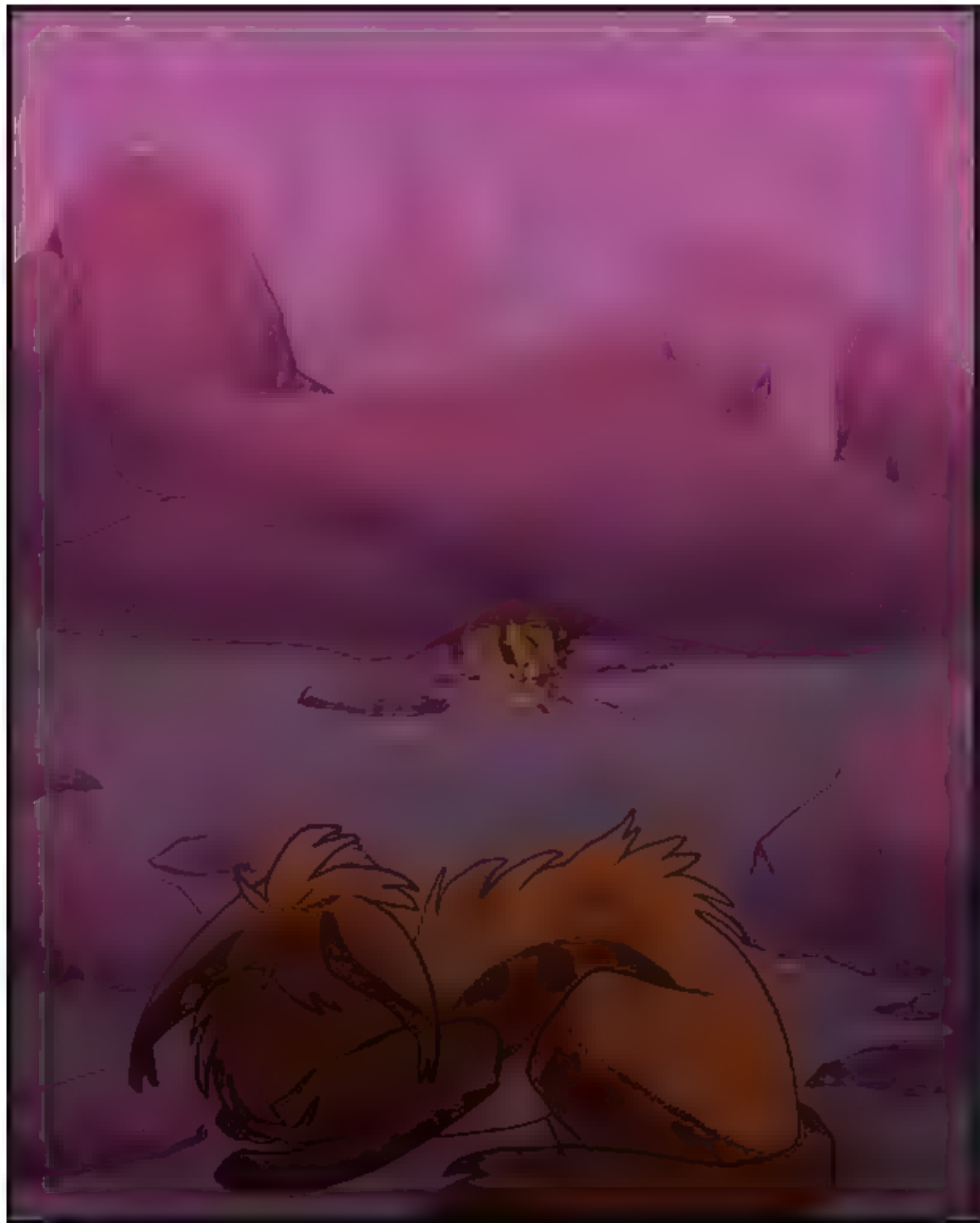


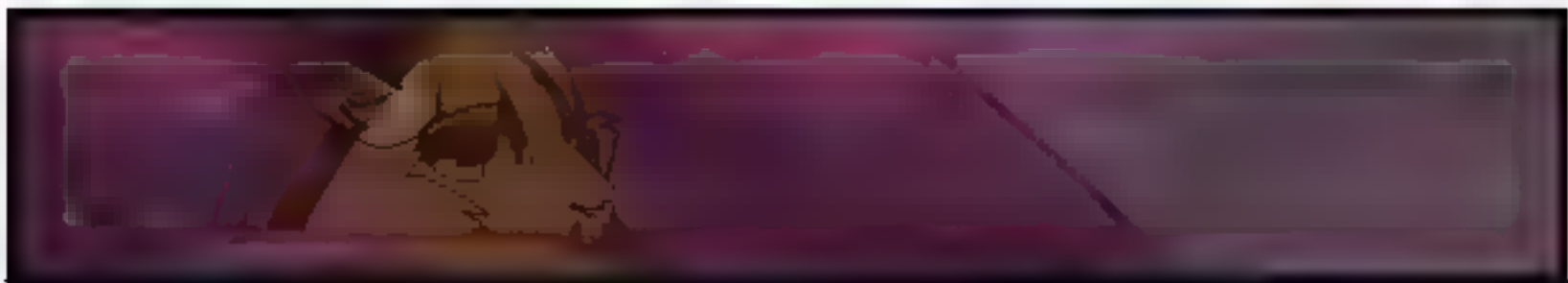
THEN NEITHER
WILL I.









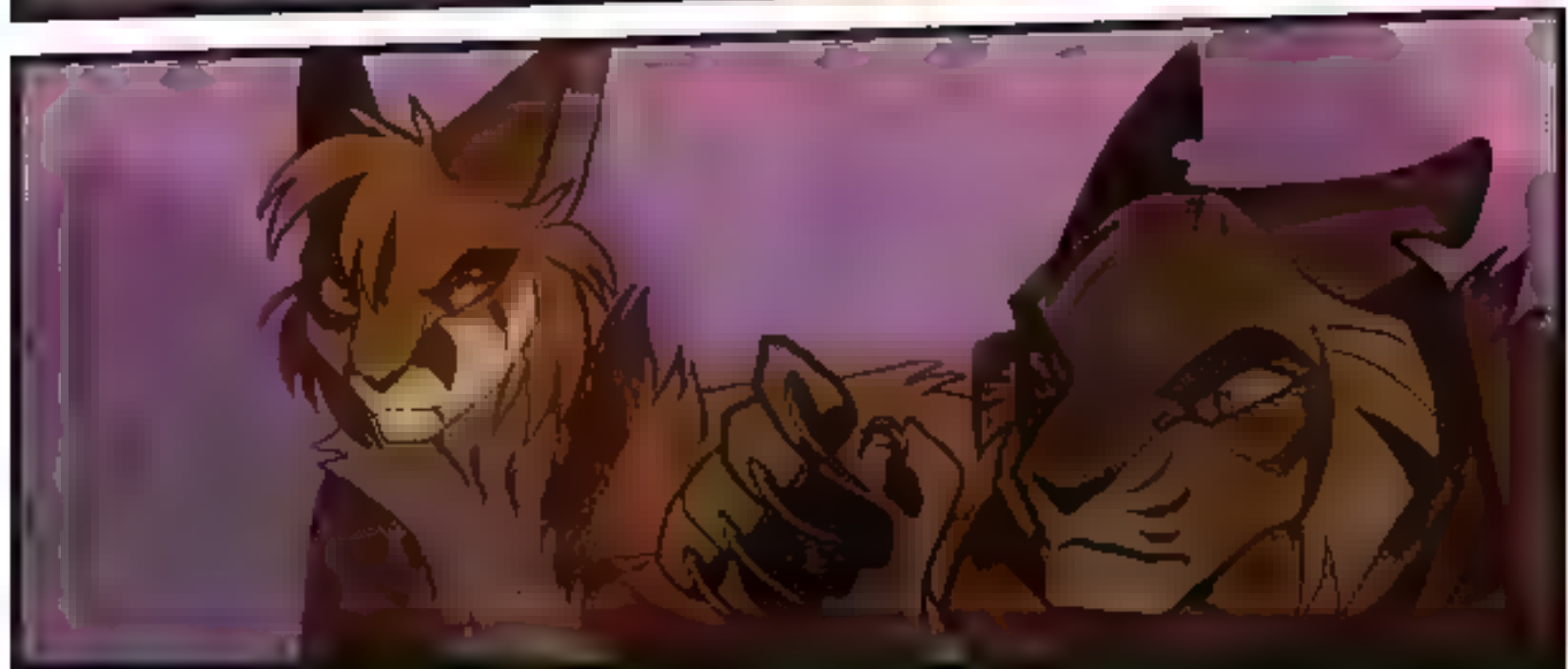


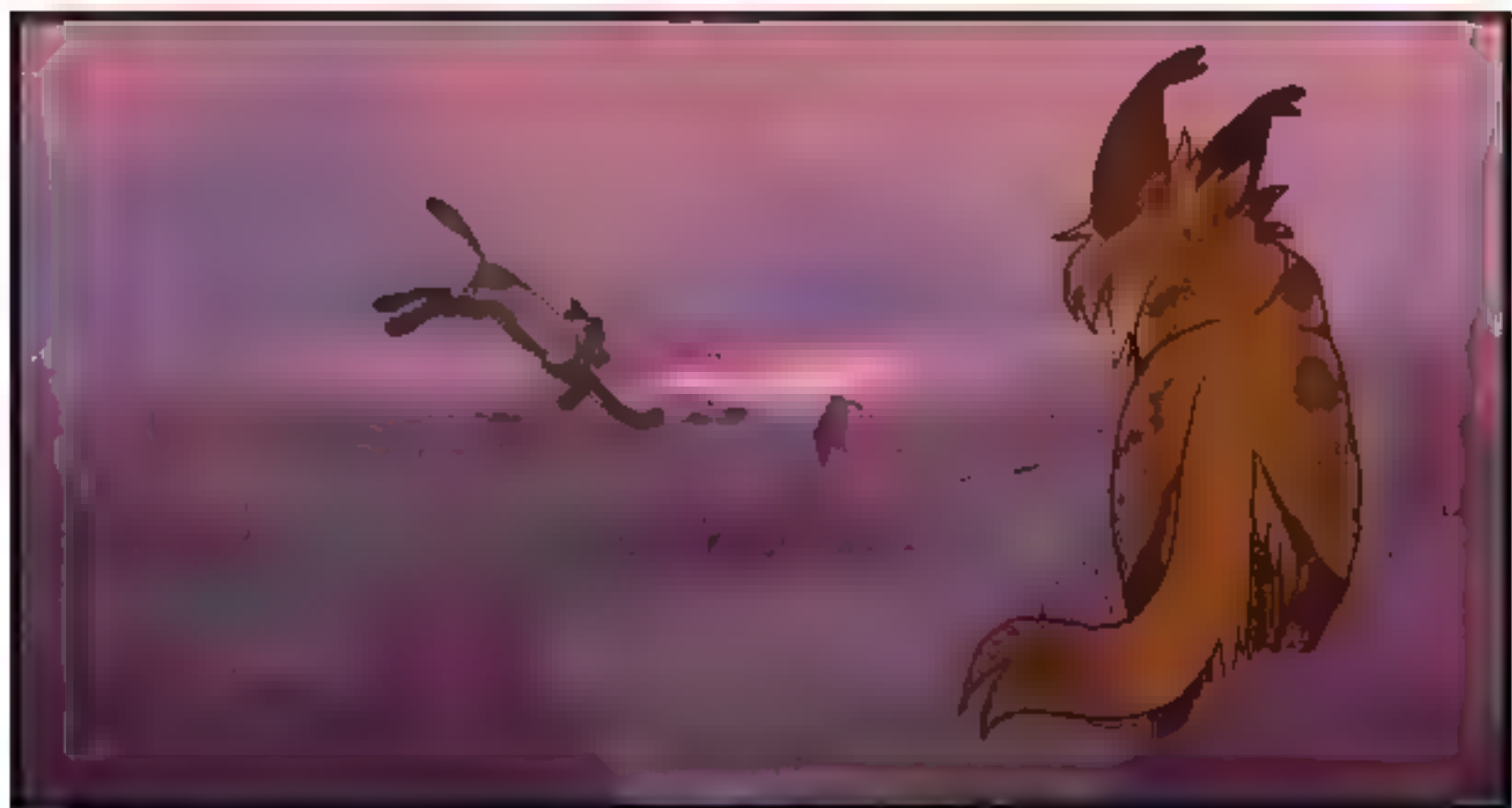
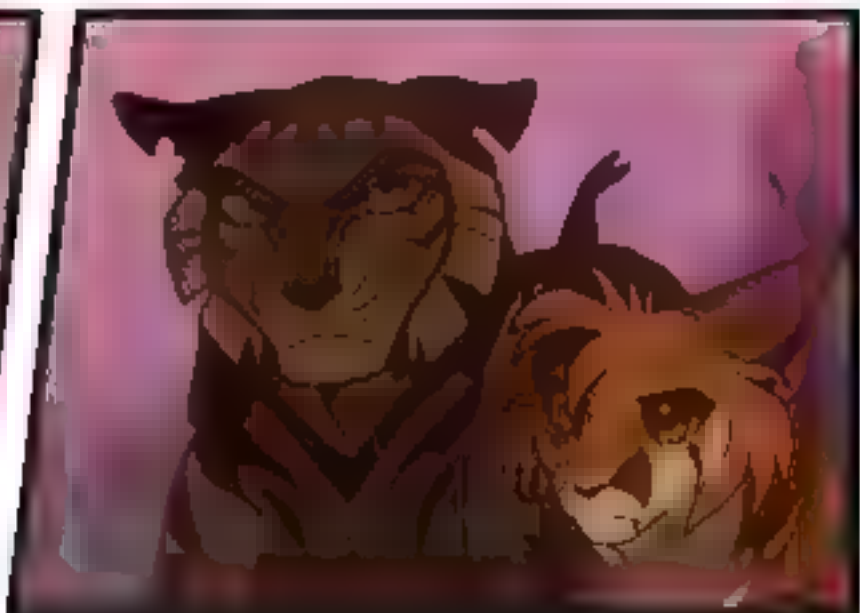


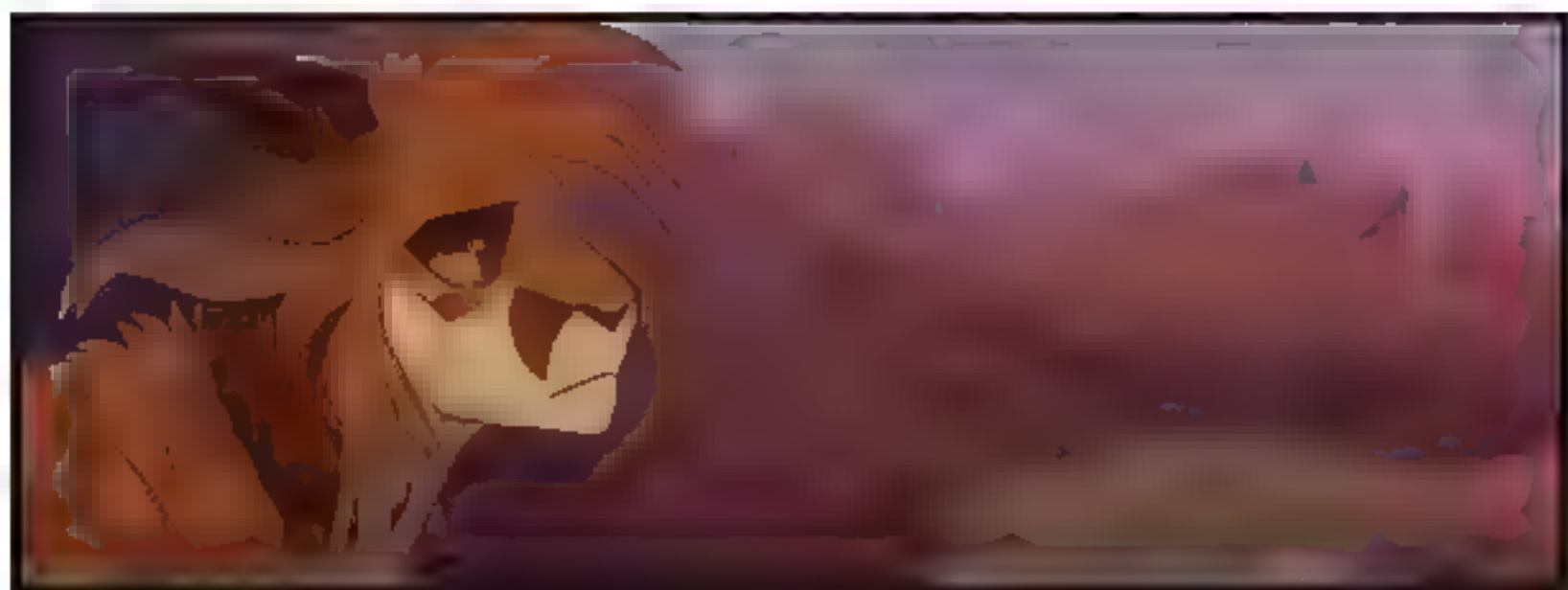




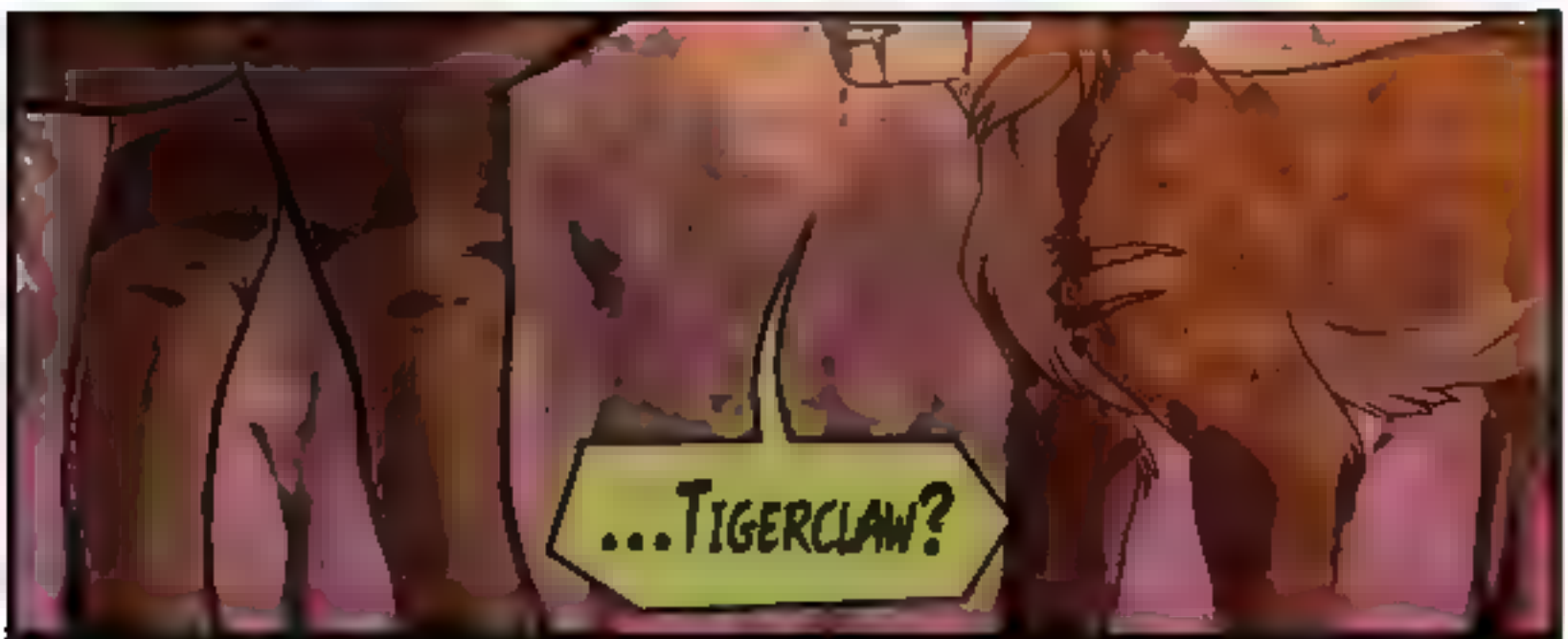

















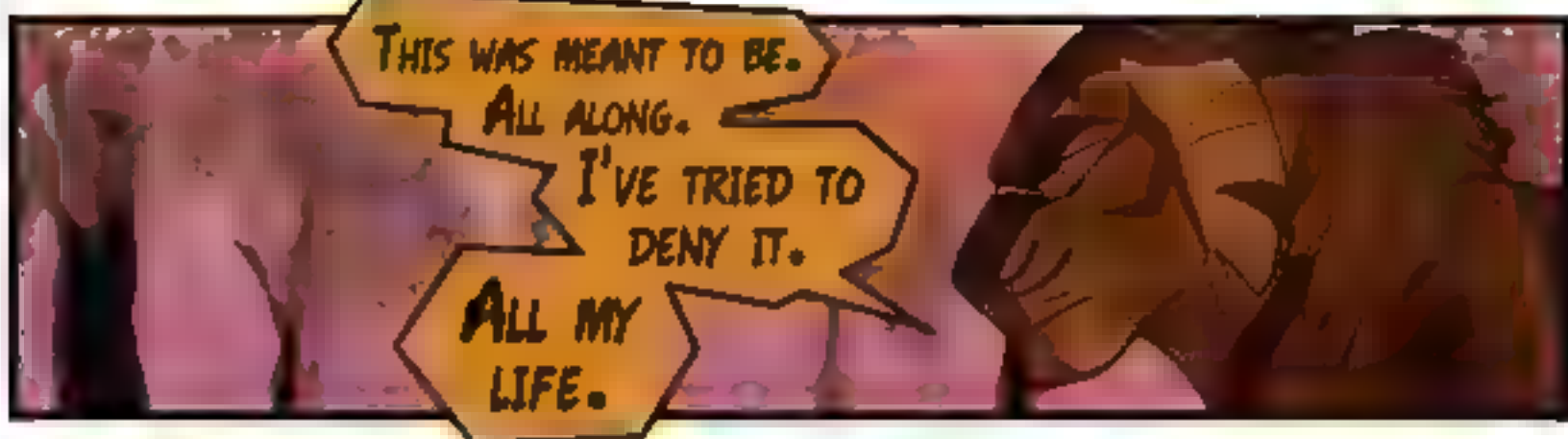
I MUST SAVE THIS CLAN.




I MUST BECOME
LEADER AND GUIDE US
ON THE RIGHT PATH.




AND FOR THAT
YOU MUST DIE.





TIGERCLAW...

I DON'T...




YOU'RE A
STRONG WARRIOR!

YOU'VE INSPIRED
SO MANY IN THE CLAN.

YOU CHOOSE WHO
YOU ARE!


NO ONE ELSE
CAN DECIDE THAT!




THIS IS MY
CHOICE, REDTAIL.

NOW FOR YOU
TO MAKE YOURS.





I'LL BRING HER
OUT TO YOU.



SHE'S A
STRONG CAT.

YOU CAN LIVE
OUT YOUR LIVES FAR
AWAY FROM HERE.

OUT OF
MY WAY.



I...



REDTAIL.

IF YOU STAY

IF YOU FIGHT

I CANNOT
GUARANTEE HER
SAFETY.



...YOU WOULDN'T.

I WON'T KILL HER.

**AS I SAID, SHE
IS A STRONG CAT, WITH
THE KIND OF COURAGE AND
SPIRIT THIS CLAN NEEDS.**



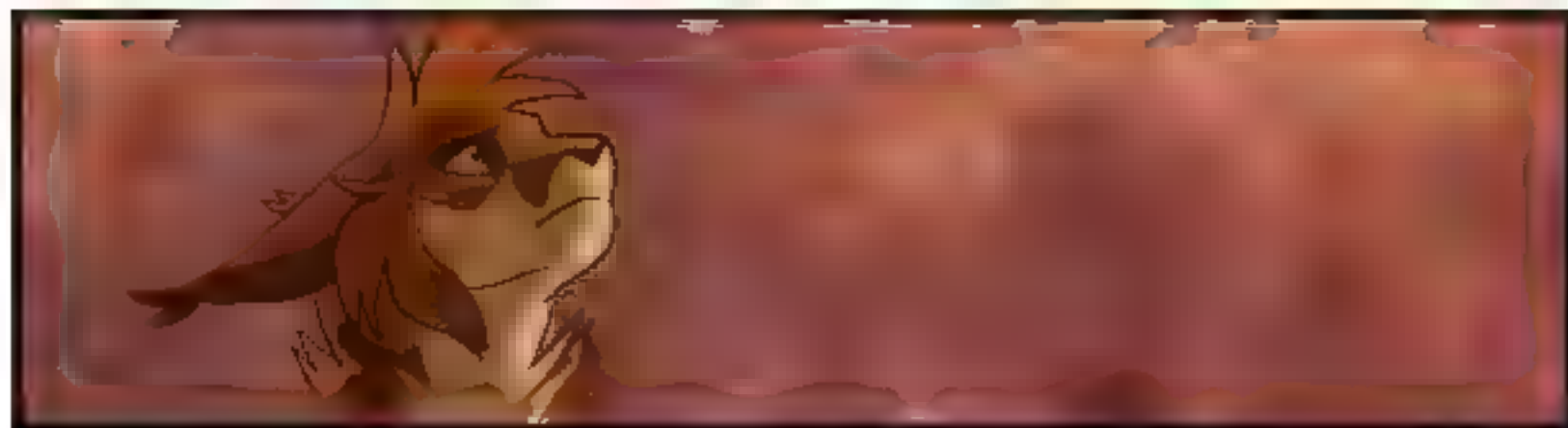
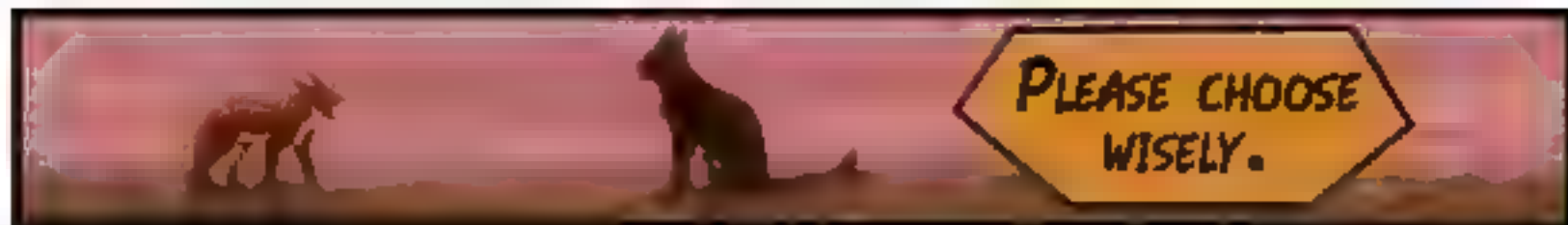
**BUT I'LL NOT
PROTECT HER, EITHER.**

**AND THERE ARE
DANGEROUS TIMES
AHEAD.**



**A LONE APPRENTICE
IS A DEAD APPRENTICE.**








...WHAT IF BLUESTAR
APPOINTS SOMEONE ELSE
DEPUTY?



TIGERCLAW.



WHAT ABOUT
BLUESTAR?




...YOU CAN'T!

A comic panel showing two cats. On the left, a light-colored cat with dark spots is speaking. On the right, a darker cat is listening. A large speech bubble from the darker cat overlaps the bottom right of the panel.


I DON'T
WANT TO--

THEN DON'T!



A close-up of a light-colored cat's face, looking slightly to the right with a determined or questioning expression.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND
WHY YOU FEEL YOU HAVE
TO DO THIS.



A close-up of a darker cat's face, looking directly forward with a serious expression.

STARCLAN
HAVE DECIDED
MY FATE.

A large tiger with orange and black stripes is walking along a dark ledge or roof. The background is a soft, hazy landscape with a warm, orange-toned sky.

THEY'VE
DETERMINED--

A close-up of a cat's face, likely a Siamese, with a determined and slightly angry expression. Its mouth is open, showing its teeth. The cat has light-colored fur with darker points on its ears and face.

THEN STARCLAN
ARE WRONG!





I'M NOT SAYING
THIS FOR MY SAKE.
BUT YOU'RE
BETTER THAN THIS.



YOU DON'T
HAVE TO--

IS THIS
YOUR CHOICE?

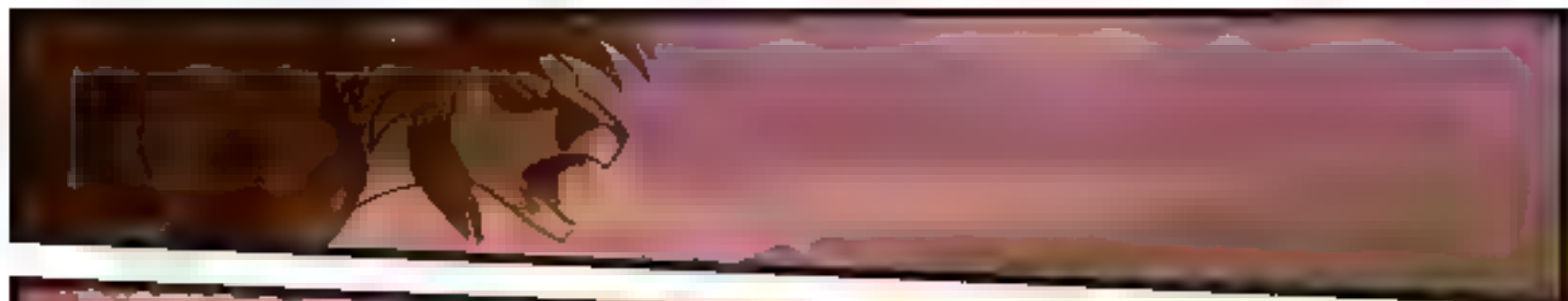


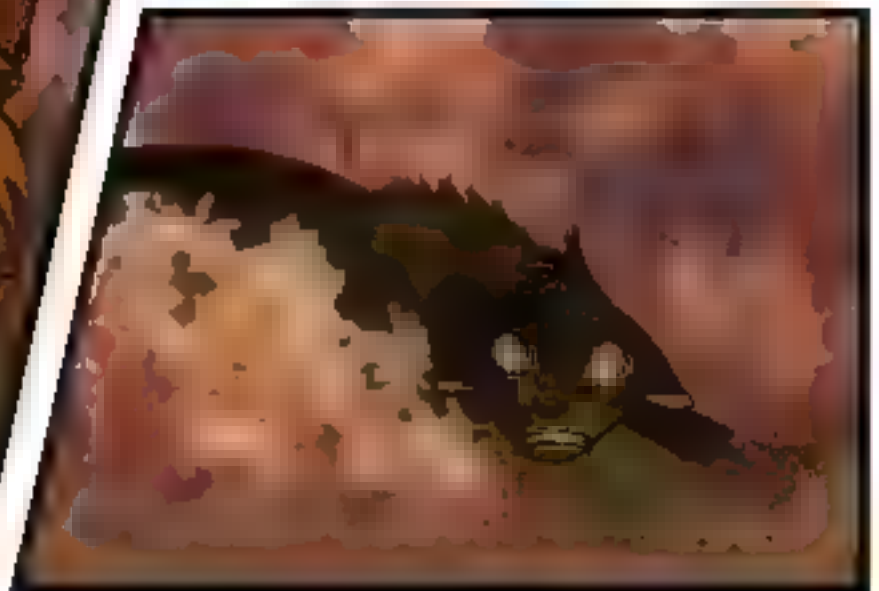
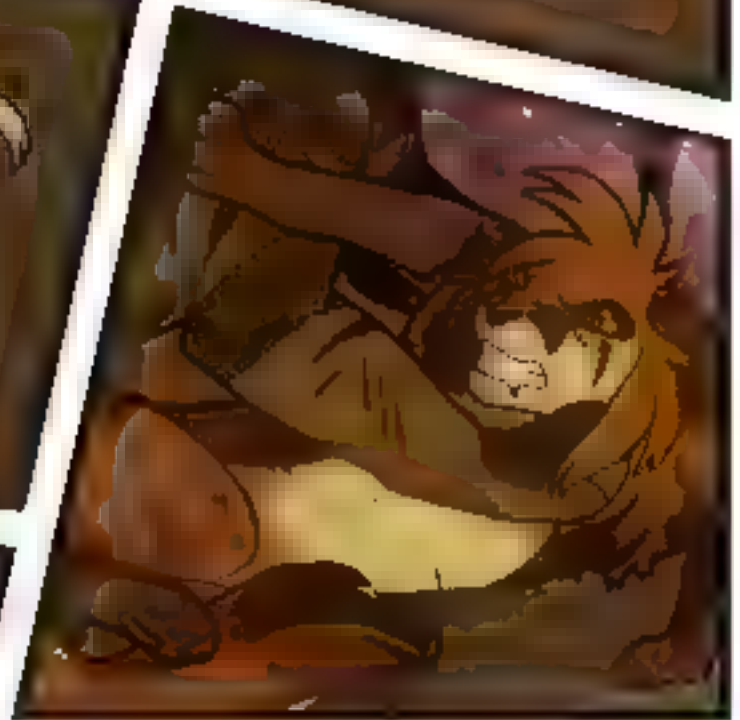
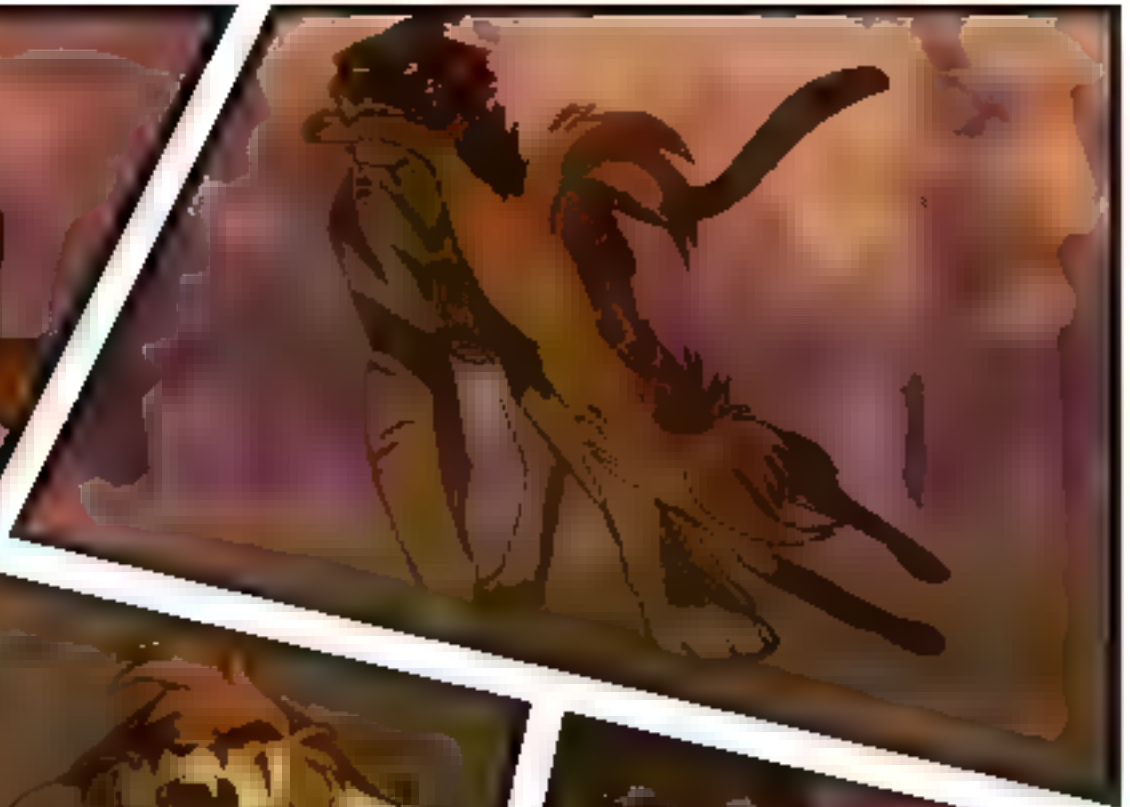
IF YOU STAY,
YOU WILL DIE.

THIS IS YOUR
LAST CHANCE.

I'VE MADE MY
CHOICE.

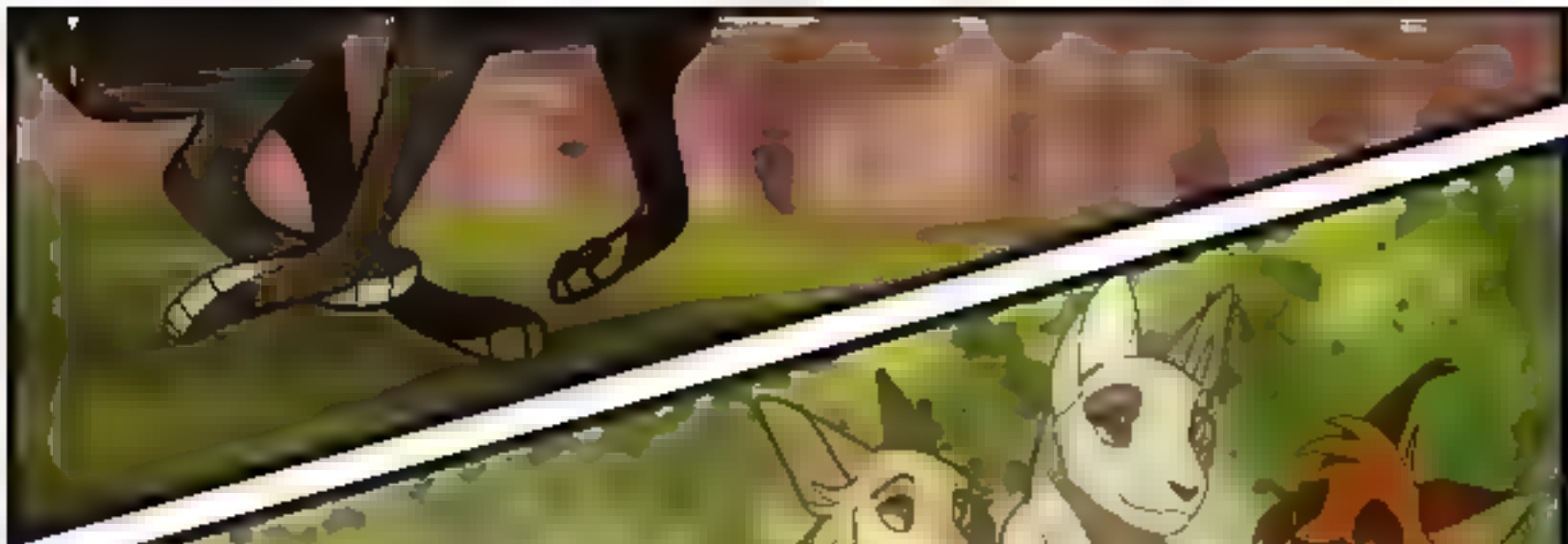
WHAT WILL YOURS BE?














A group of cats are gathered in a forest with autumn-colored trees. In the foreground, a white cat with dark ears and a dark collar (Oakheart) is looking towards the right. Behind him, a grey cat (Whitestorm) and a brown cat (Redtail) are visible. Other cats are in the background.

WE MET FIVE RIVERCLAN
WARRIORS AT SUNNINGROCKS.

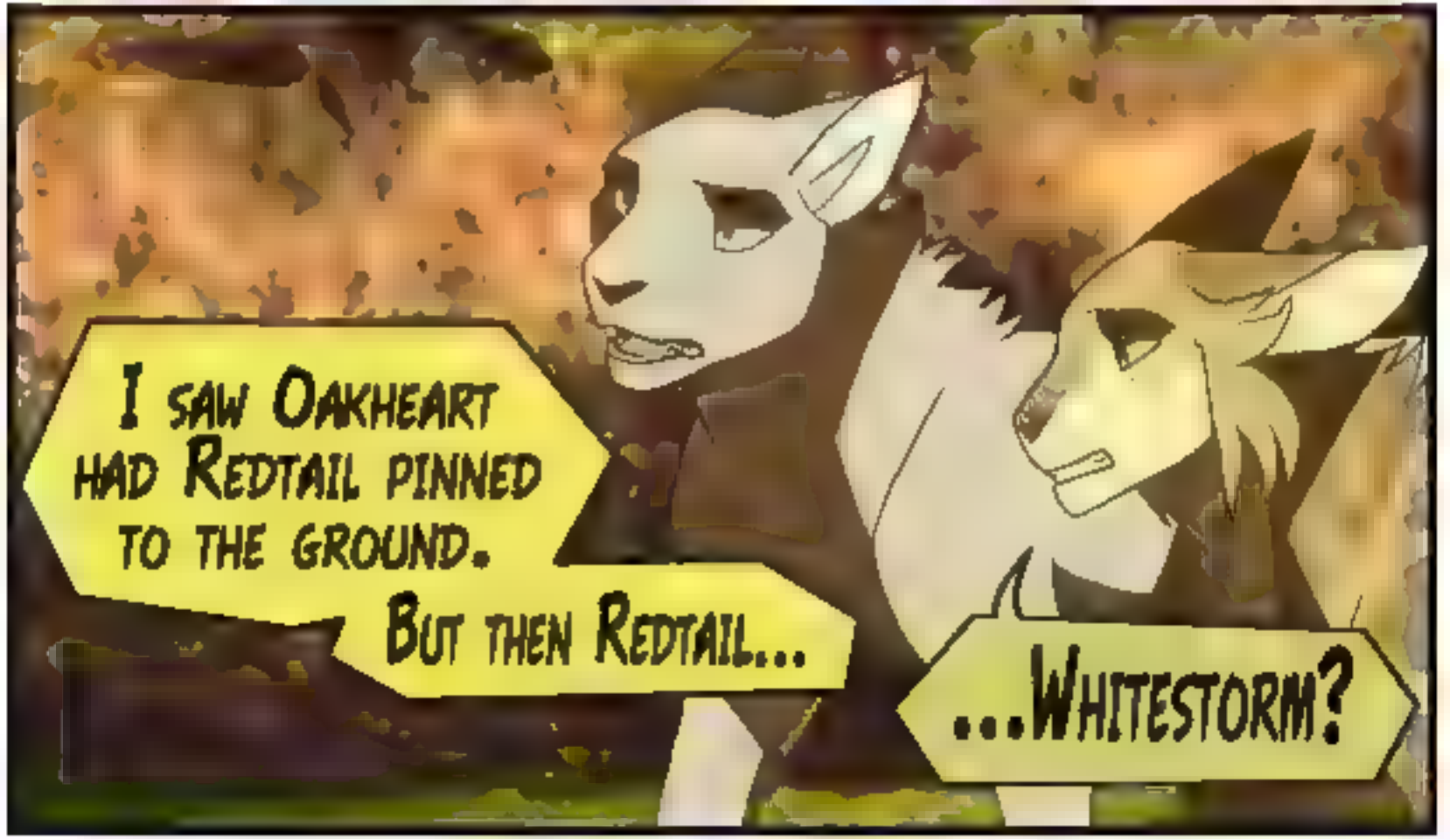
OAKHEART WAS AMONG THEM.

Oakheart and Whitestorm are shown in a close-up. Oakheart is on the left, looking at Whitestorm on the right. They are both looking serious.

OAK... OAKHEART WOULD
NOT BACK DOWN.

...HE'S JOKING, RIGHT?

THE FIGHTING WAS
VICIOUS.

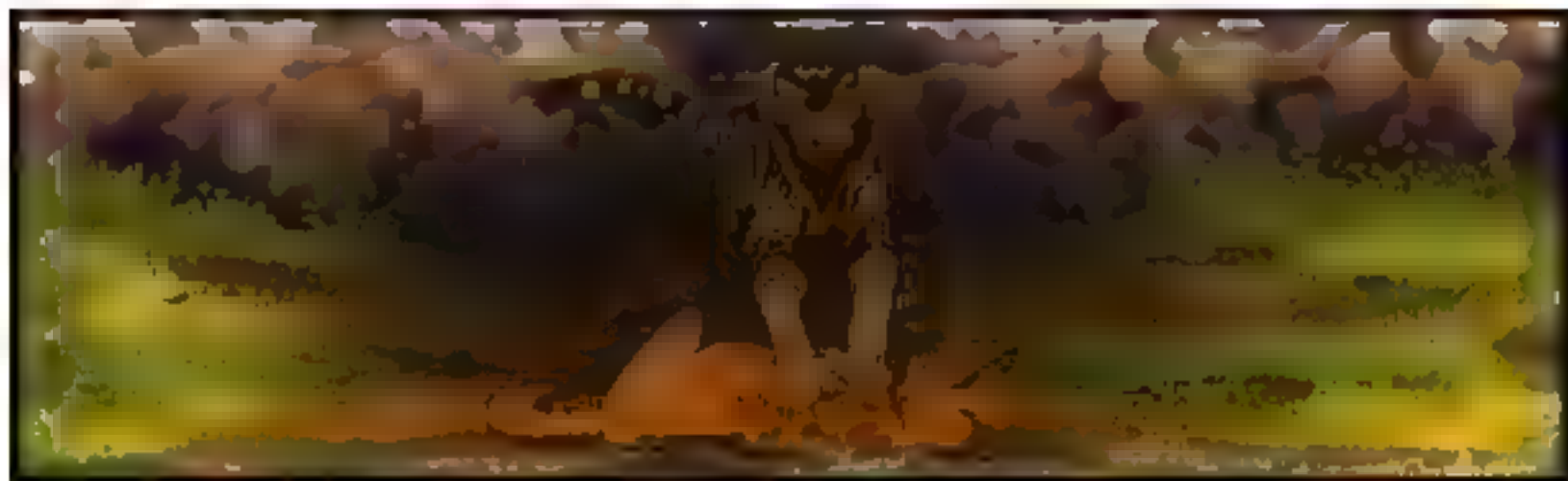
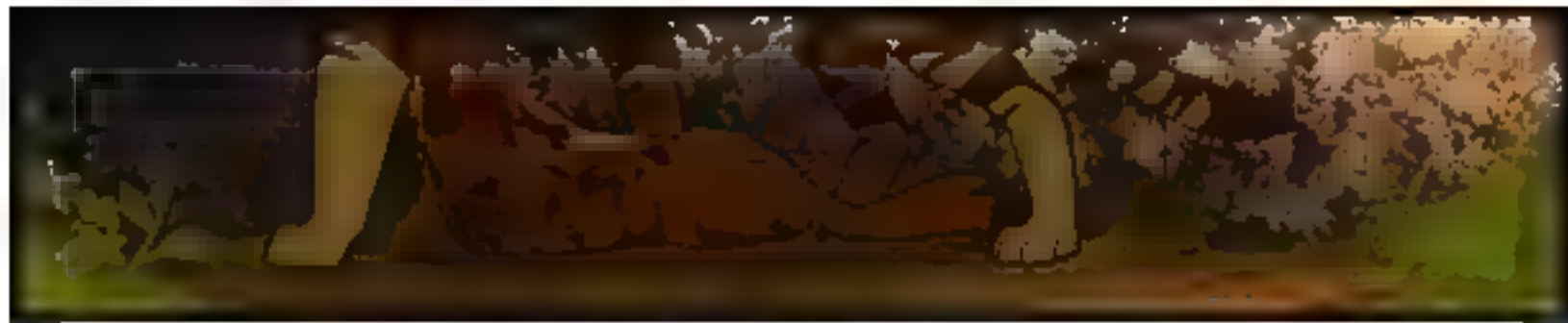
A close-up of Oakheart and Whitestorm. Oakheart is on the left, looking slightly down and to the right. Whitestorm is on the right, looking towards Oakheart.

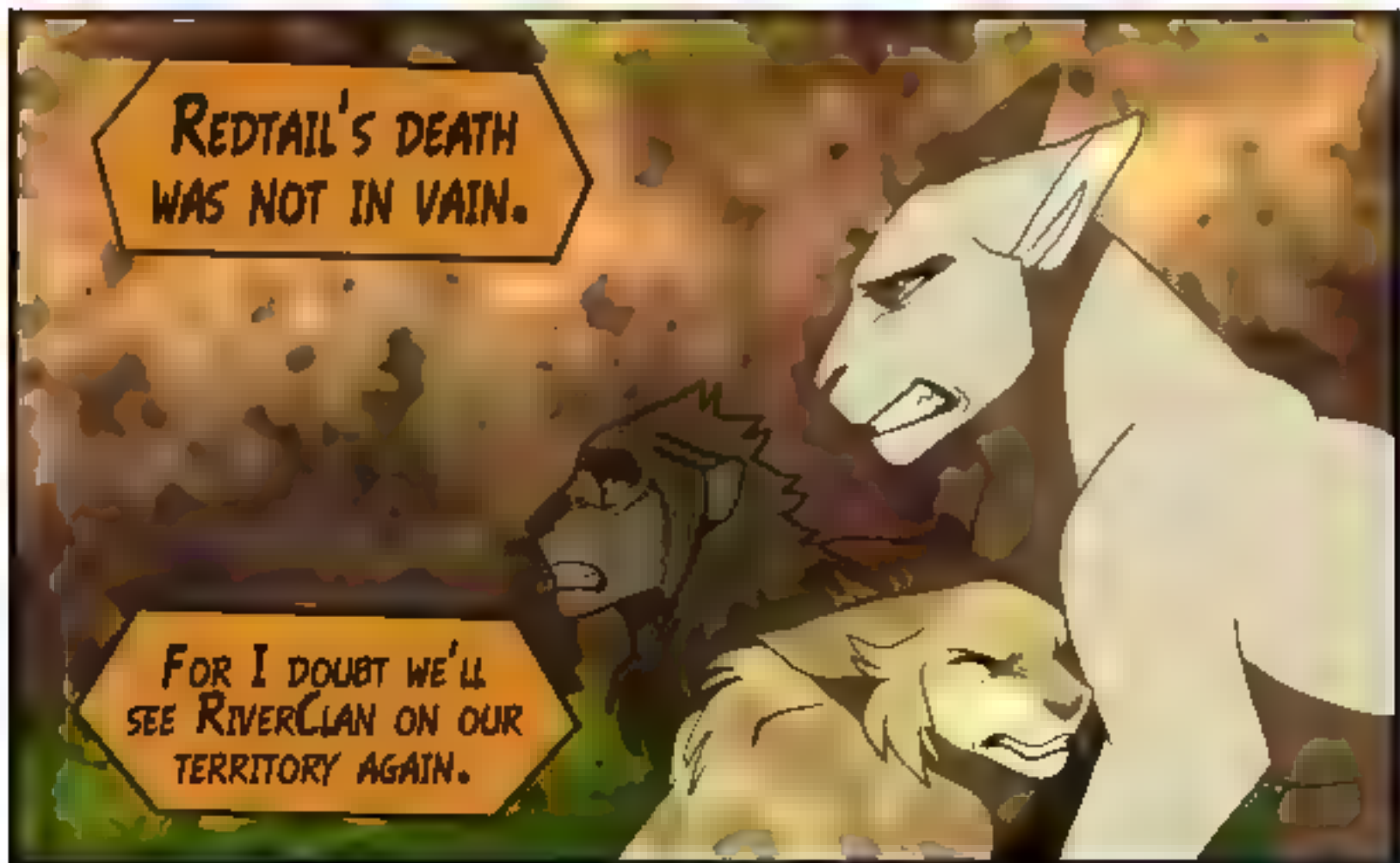
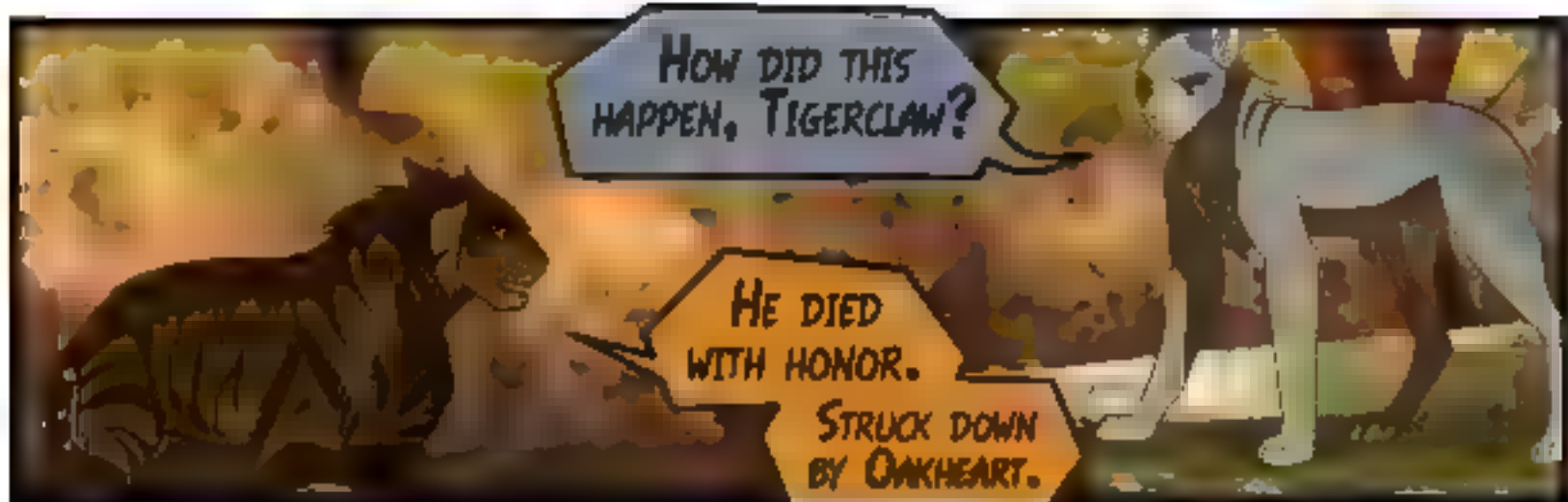
I SAW OAKHEART
HAD REDTAIL PINNED
TO THE GROUND.

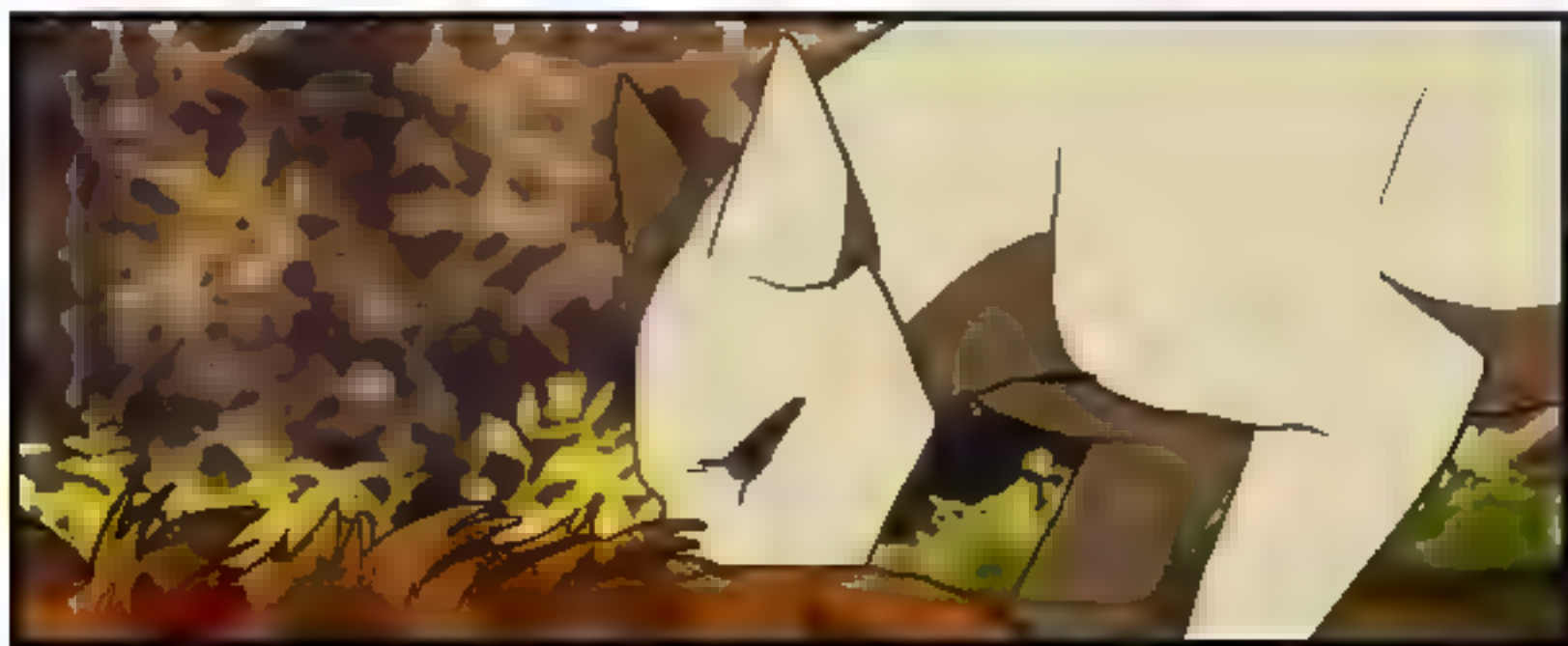
BUT THEN REDTAIL...

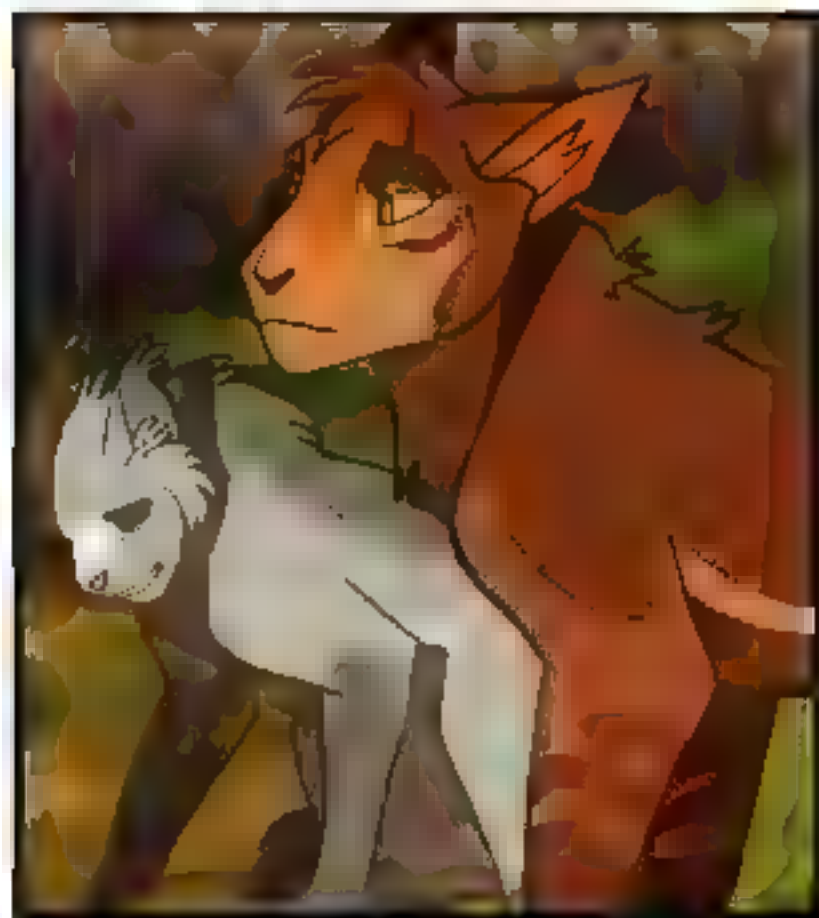
...WHITESTORM?

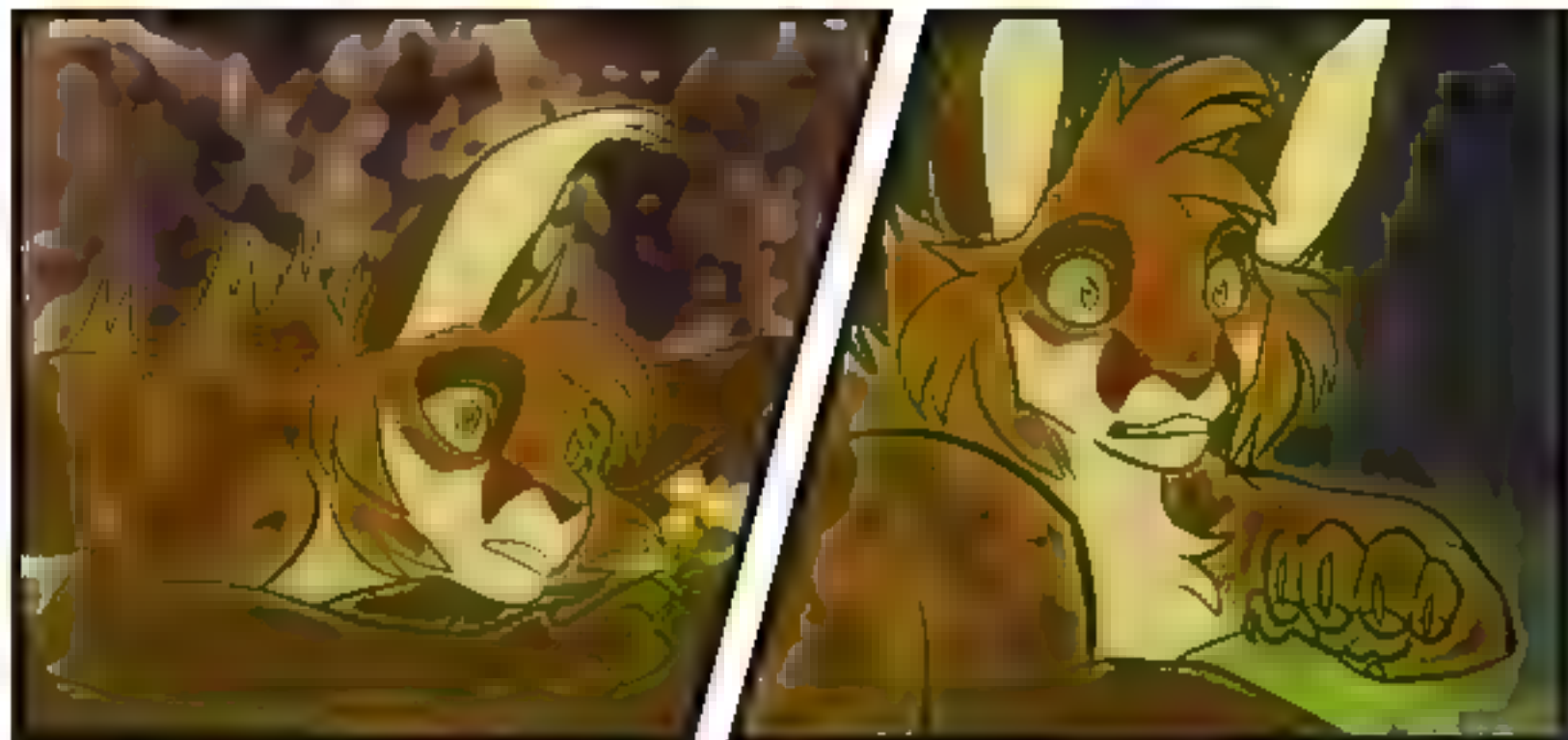
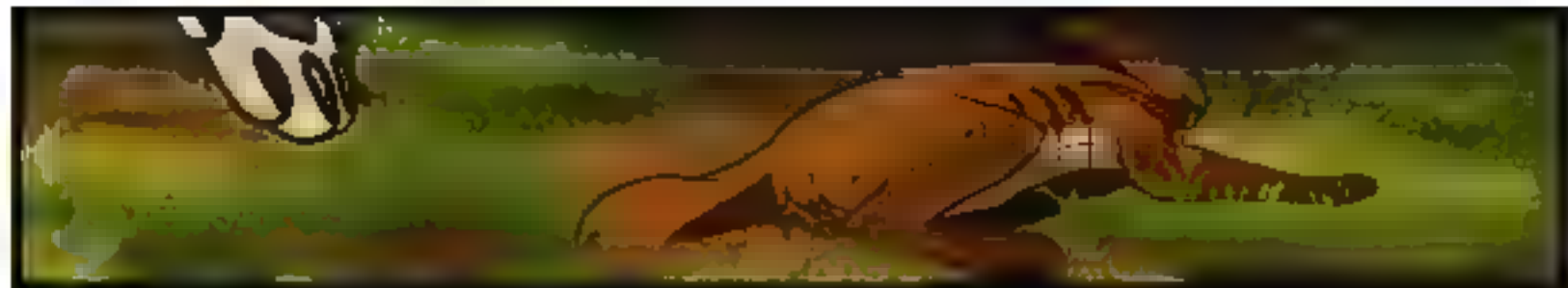











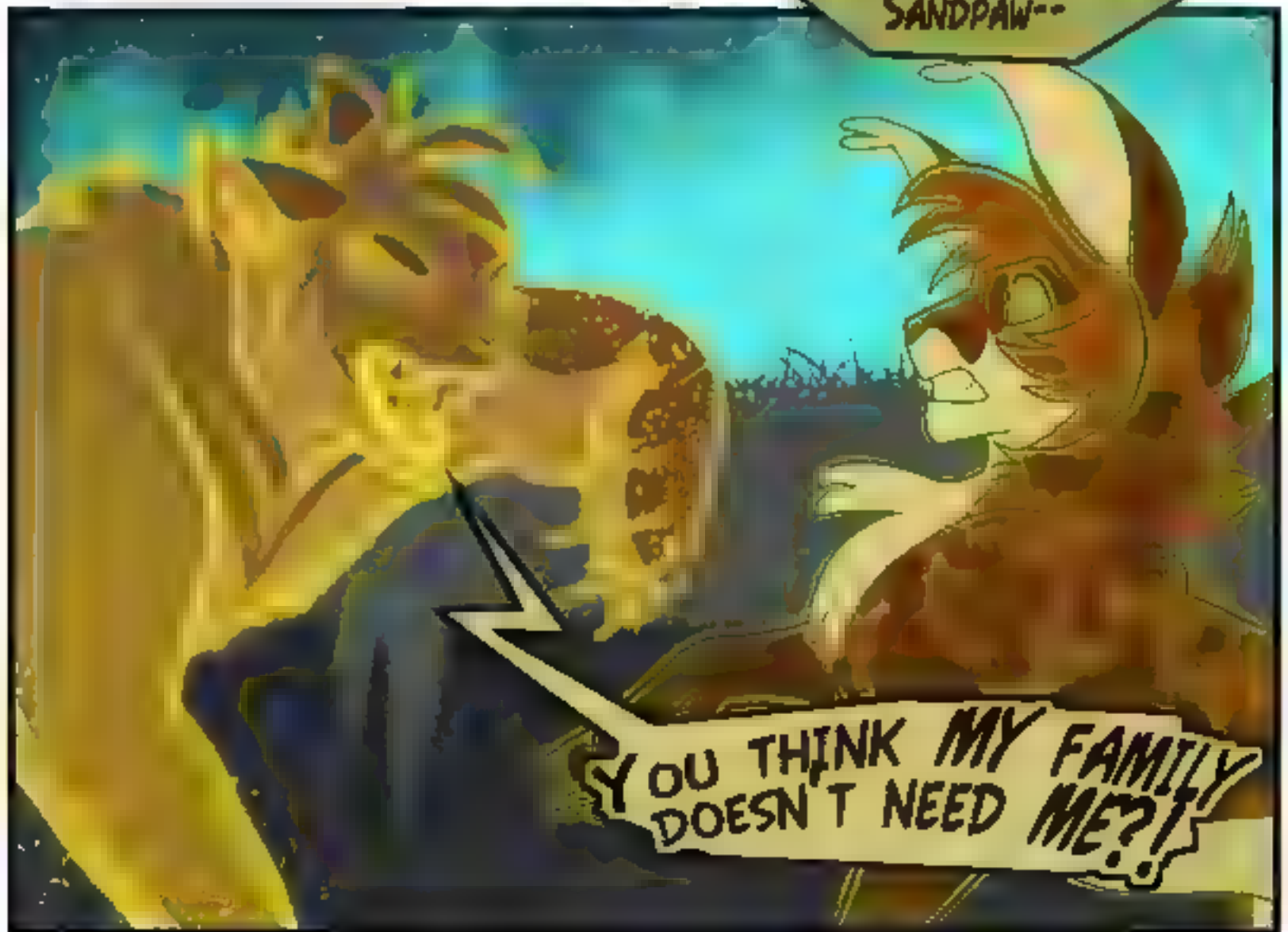





WHAT HAVE
YOU DONE?



HOW COULD
YOU CHOOSE DEATH
SO EASILY?






I TOLD YOU!



**I TOLD YOU TO
PROTECT THEM!**

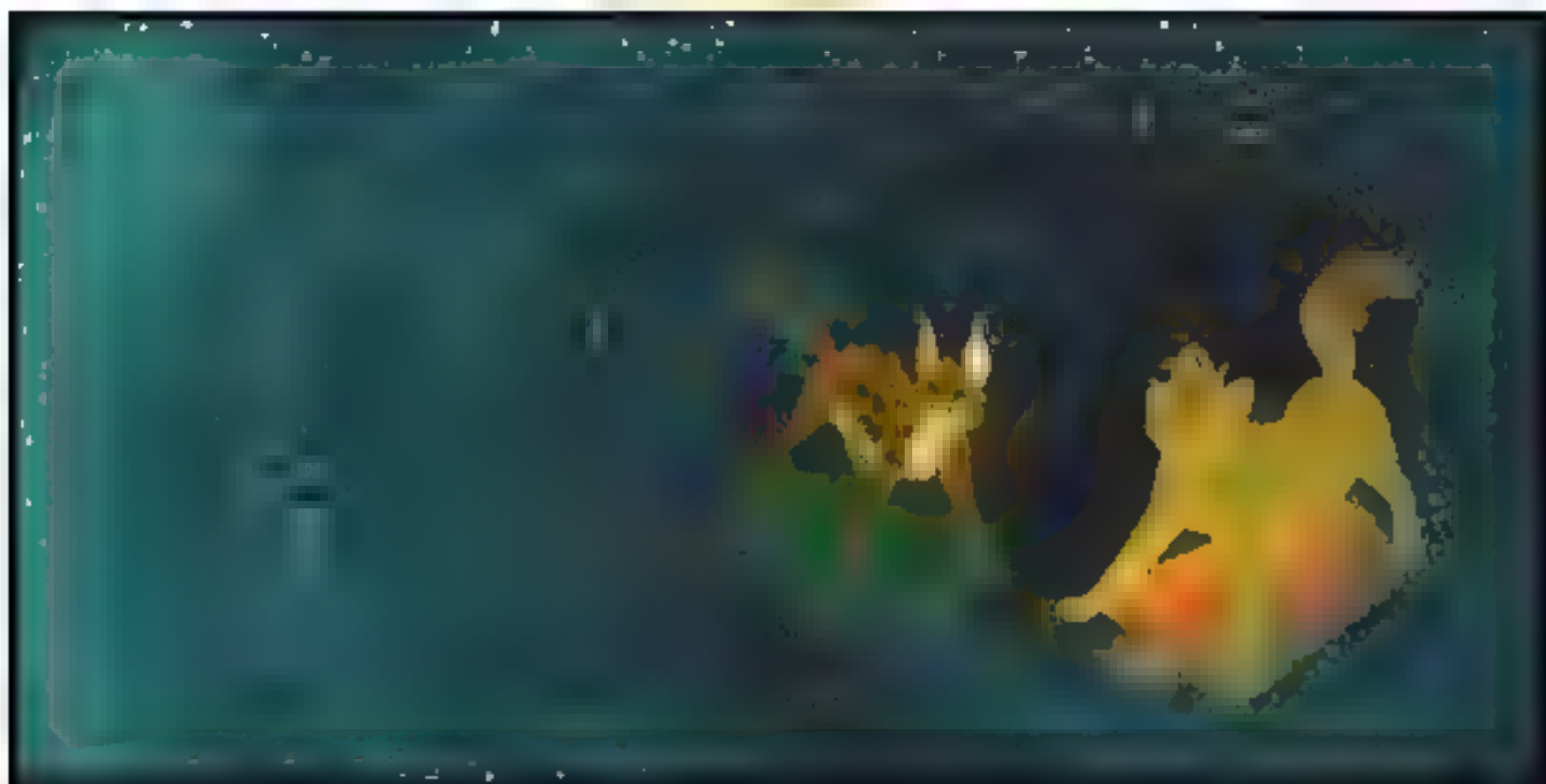
**NOW BECAUSE
OF YOUR CHOICE,
THEY WILL DIE!**



**WHAT WAS I
SUPPOSED TO DO?**

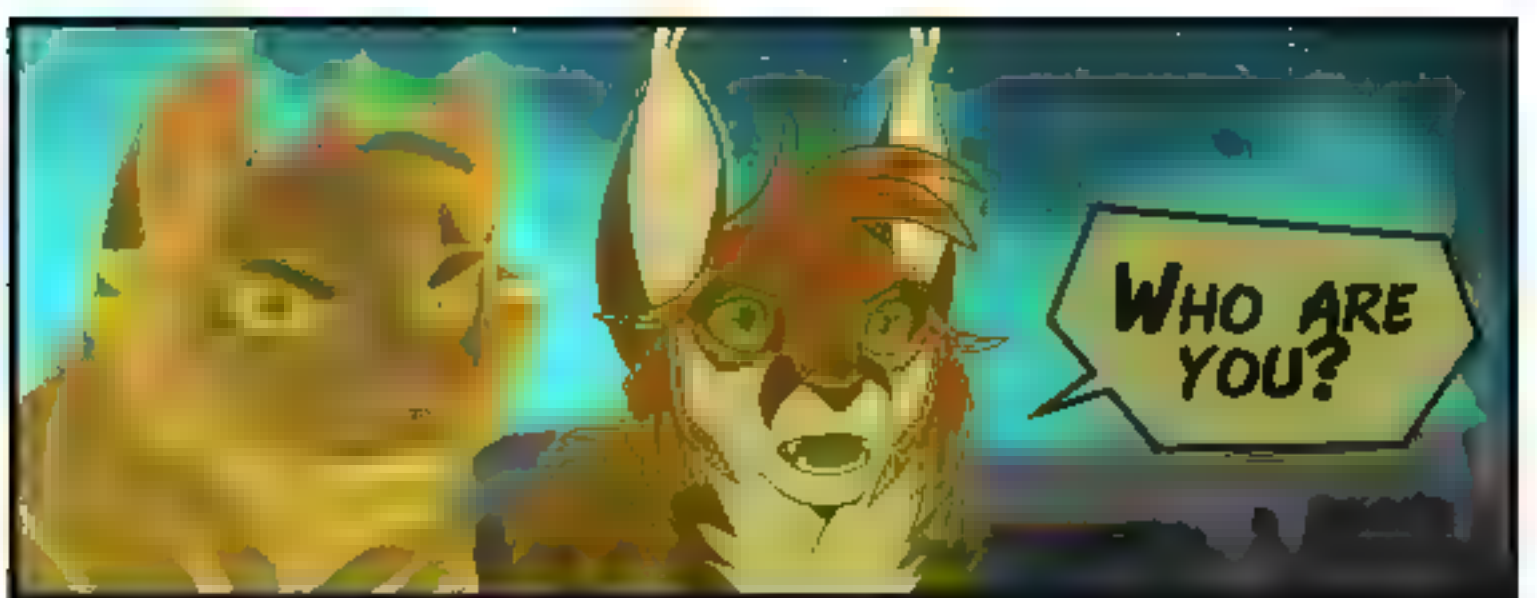
**I CAN'T BEAT
TIGERCLAW!**

NO ONE CAN!





**TWO LOST DEPUTIES
WITH A CHOICE TO
MAKE**



**WHO ARE
YOU?**



YOU THINK
TIGERCLAW WILL LOSE,
DEAR OAKHEART?

DO YOU REALIZE THE
COST OF THAT LOSS?



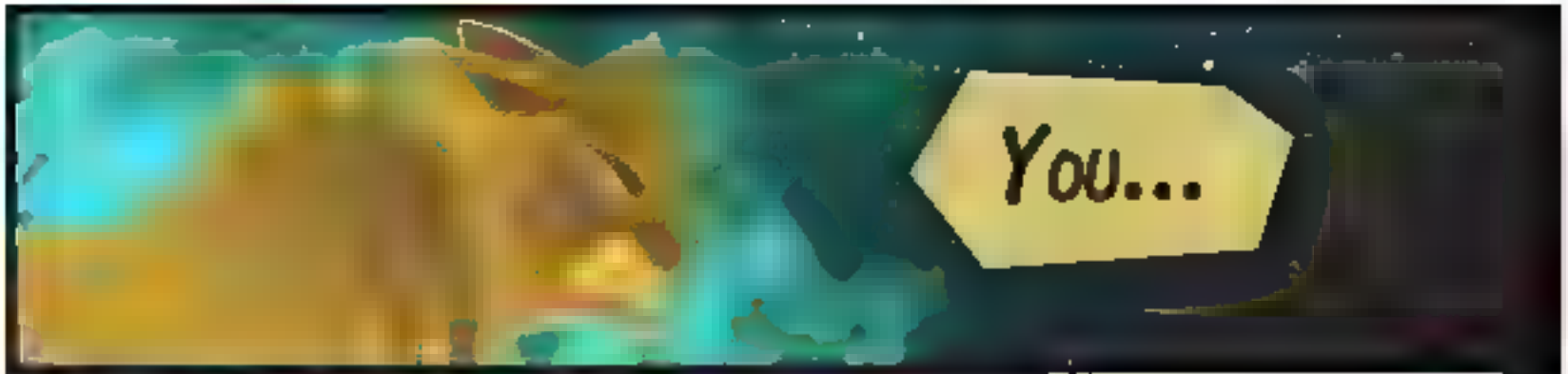
WHO WILL
PAY THAT PRICE?

HE HAS ALREADY
COLLECTED HIS DUES
FROM YOU.




WHOSE FAMILY WILL HE
PURSUE FIRST, I WONDER?

HOW WILL THEY
SURVIVE WITH NONE
TO WARN THEM?



You...



STAY AWAY FROM US,
MONSTER! GO BACK TO YOUR
FOX HOLE AND STAY THERE!

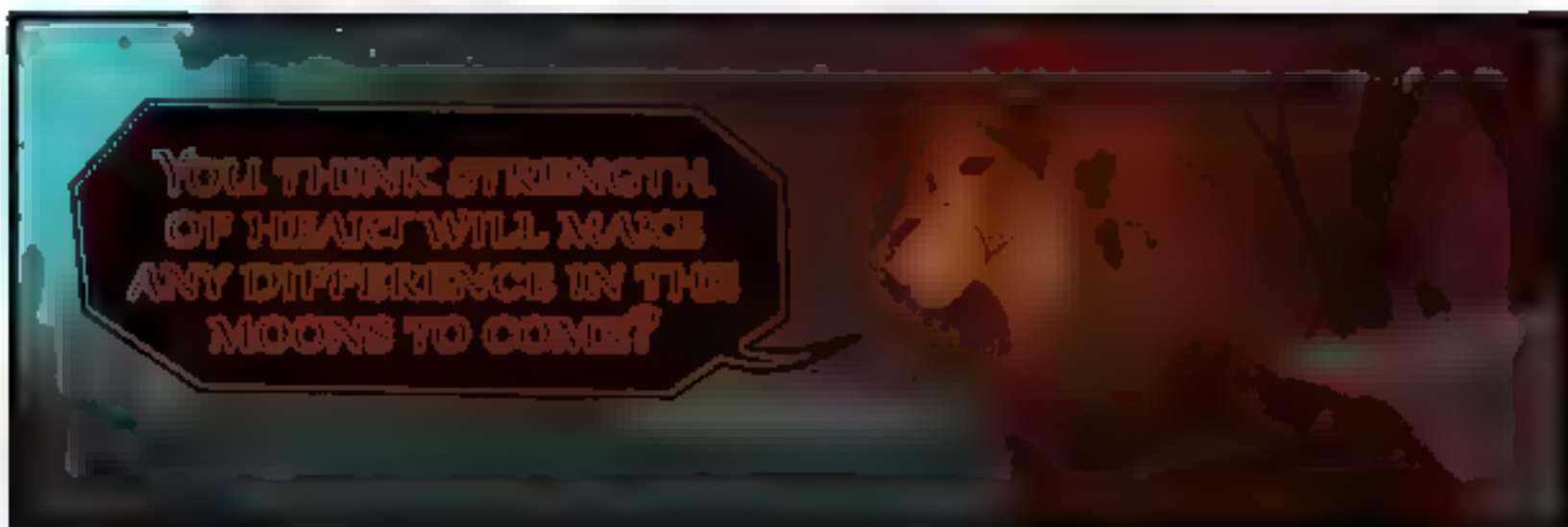
YOU'LL GET
NOTHING FROM US!

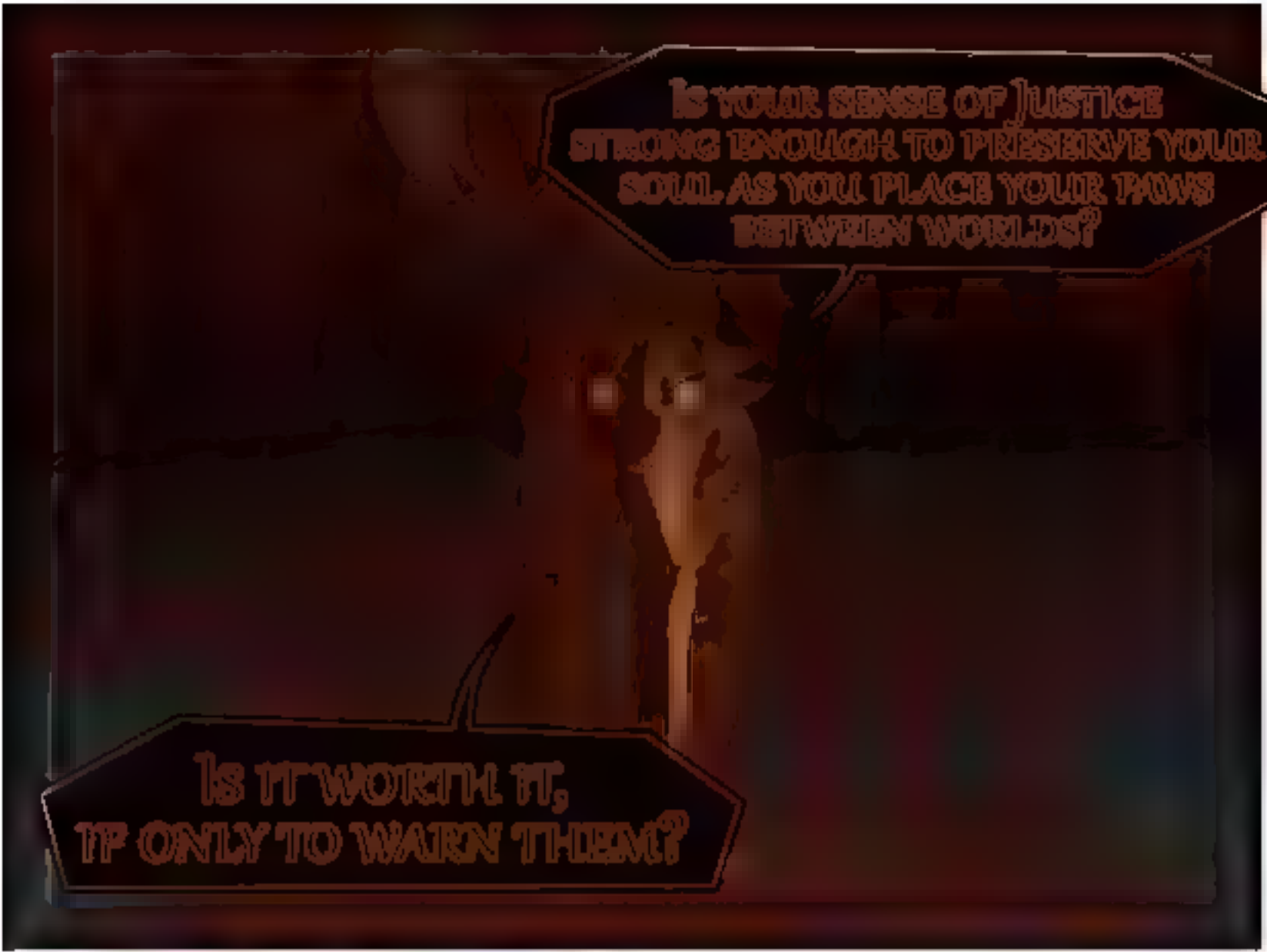


THIS CHOICE
IS NOT ENTIRELY
YOURS, OAKHEART.











IS YOUR SENSE OF JUSTICE
STRONG ENOUGH TO PRESERVE YOUR
SOUL AS YOU PLACE YOUR PAWS
BETWEEN WORLDS?

IS IT WORTH IT,
IF ONLY TO WARN THEM?




THE STARS HAVE
THEIR OWN PLANS
FOR US.

A yellow cat (Tigerclaw) is on the left, looking towards the right. A brown cat (Redtail) is on the right, looking back at the yellow cat. The background is dark and indistinct.


THE STARS TOLD TIGERCLAW
HIS DESTINY WAS SET.

HE THOUGHT
HIS AGENCY LOST.

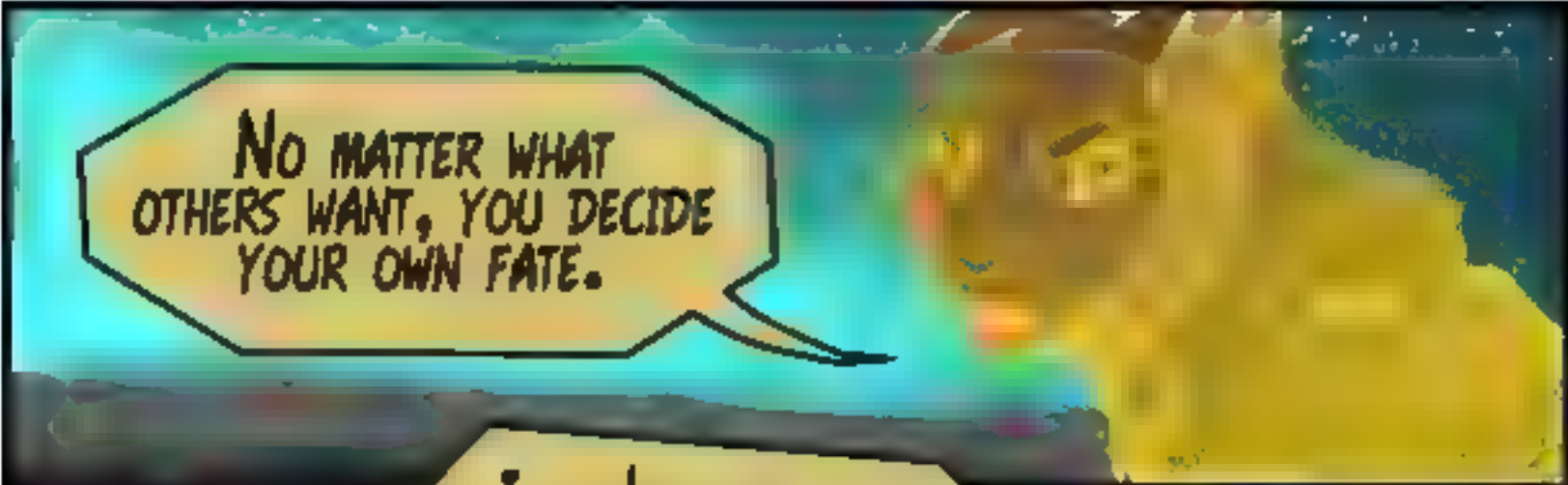
A close-up of a brown cat's face, looking slightly to the left. The cat has a serious expression.

WE THOUGHT THE
STARS PERFECT GUIDES
FOR OUR LIVES.


BUT WHEN WAS THE
LAST TIME A STARCLAN
CAT SPOKE TO YOU?

A yellow cat is on the left, standing and looking towards the right. A brown cat is on the right, standing and looking back at the yellow cat. The background is dark, with a bright blue light source on the left.

...I'M SPEAKING TO
YOU RIGHT NOW, REDTAIL.




NO MATTER WHAT
OTHERS WANT, YOU DECIDE
YOUR OWN FATE.



I DON'T CARE ABOUT
PROPHECIES AND DESTINY.

I CARE ABOUT
MY FAMILY!
MY CLAN!



IF YOU WANT *YOUR*
FAMILY TO RECOGNIZE YOU
WHEN THEY SEE YOU AGAIN

WE'LL GO OUR
OWN WAY.

NOT HERS.

IT'S YOUR CHOICE, DEAR.

THUNDERCLAN AND RIVERCLAN
ARE LEBBER FOR YOUR LOSSES.

I MERELY PRAY
FOR ALL OUR SAKES THAT
YOU BOTH CONTINUE TO
INFLUENCE THEM.



WHO WAS THAT?

...IT DOESN'T
MATTER.



OUR TIME IS
UP, BUT EVERYONE
IS STILL IN DANGER.

WHAT DO WE
DO, REDTAIL?

YOUR CLAN
AND MINE.



HOW DO WE
HELP THEM?



FIRE ALONE WILL
SAVE OUR CLANS



THEN WE BETTER
HELP START THE FIRE.

WARRIORS

REDTAIL'S CHOICE

